





# Palestinian Council calls to suspend talks

By JON IMMANUEL

Two days of debate in the Palestinian Legislative Council ended with a call to suspend talks with Israel, and ambiguous calls for violent resistance to its policies. The council called on the Palestinian Authority to suspend negotiations until Israel stops building settlements, reject the six-month final status plan which will leave the PA with no term of reference in peace talks, and reject US vetoes in the UN and call on it to be an honest mediator. The call paralleled one by Fatah earlier this week, but did not specifically call for demonstrations against Har Homa. It did praise "the martyrs of resistance to settlements." The council is largely composed of Fatah supporters. In Rabat, Morocco, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat spoke to reporters of "the crime of the Israelis against Jerusalem, Judaizing Jerusalem. Building settlements inside and outside Jerusalem is a real crime." The opposition and the PA's supporters were converging in their calls for resistance, and the thin

line which separates peaceful from violent resistance was being breached in several places. The difference between Har Homa and the expansion of existing settlements, all of which the Palestinians consider illegal, was also eradicated. "The suspension of talks is basic until all settlement expansion is halted," said council member Hisham Abdel-Razek. Council member Marwan Barghout, Fatah chief in the West Bank, yesterday denied a radio report, which quoted a Palestinian newspaper, that he had praised last week's Tel Aviv suicide bomber, saying he was firmly opposed to violence, especially inside the Green Line. "I was one of the first to condemn acts of terror," he said, adding that he had said: "We should identify with the village of Tsurif, from which the killer came, but distinguish between the village under curfew and the suicide attacker." His version was separately supported by a US observer at Wednesday's proceedings. However Husam Khader, another

Fatah activist, thought he heard him say "the council should salute the hero." I was surprised by Marwan, because we consider him a powerful supporter of dialogue." Meretz leader Yossi Sarid issued a statement strenuously attacking Barghout's words. He said, Itim reported, that they "cast a heavy shadow over the Palestinian Legislative Council, and remove it from the list of enlightened parliaments." Meanwhile, opposition groups readying for Friday prayers and Land Day on Sunday held a joint press conference with Fatah in Gaza in which Hamas did not rule out violence and Fatah warned of disaster. Hamas spokesman Dr. Mahmoud Zahar called for a "new intifada" and noted "all options are open." Ahmed Heless, Fatah representative, did not propose violence, but warned that "the Israeli prime minister's policies will bring disaster and war to the peoples of the area." About 30% of Fatah supporters voted for an intifada in a Beit Sahur meeting of all West Bank regional representatives earlier this week. A



A Palestinian boy prepares to throw a rock during disturbances near the IDF checkpoint in Ramallah yesterday. One soldier was injured when his vehicle was stoned. There were also clashes on the road to Bir Zeit. Ten Palestinians were lightly wounded. In Kalandiya refugee camp, youths briefly threw stones at cars on the main Jerusalem-Ramallah road. Bethlehem and Hebron were reported quiet. (Photo: Jon Immanuel. Photo: Brian McBurney)


# Katsav asks Arabs to keep Land Day peaceful

By DAVID RUDGE

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav yesterday called on Israeli Arab leaders to do their utmost to ensure that activities planned for Land Day on Sunday pass quietly. The call to Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, chairman of the forum of Arab Council Heads, came amid concern that the recent violence in the territories might spill across the Green Line during the general strike declared by the Arab leadership to mark Land Day. "They have the right to demonstrate, protest, hold parades and rallies, but not disturbances or riots - not under any circumstances or under any conditions," Katsav told Israel Radio. Katsav said he had spoken with Nimr Hussein and had been assured that there would be no breach of the peace during the Land Day activities. "I am convinced that responsible leaders will not lend a hand to any deterioration in relations between Jews and Arabs. We have lived with one another for 49 years and we will continue to live with one another for hundreds of years to come," said Katsav, who is

also the minister responsible for Arab affairs. "If, however, someone does not respect this and tries to use different means, to attain political or individual aims, which cause an escalation in the situation, we will not be able to let this pass. We have to ensure law and order under all circumstances," he said. Police and the IDF are on high alert to prevent violent clashes and rioting. But police district chiefs and local council heads have also been talking to Israeli Arab leaders, asking them to help keep the peace. On Wednesday, for example, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo met with Arab leaders in Jaffa to discuss residents' problems. Although Jaffa Arabs live with their Jewish neighbors in relative harmony, they tend to vent their frustrations on other social issues during processions and demonstrations. Jaffa residents intend to demonstrate on Sunday against a building project in the neighborhood. Arab leaders reiterated yesterday that there was no intention to cause any disturbances on Land Day and that leaflets had been distributed throughout the community calling for restraint. Nevertheless, there was criticism over what

they described as a government-sponsored campaign of incitement against the Arab sector. "This campaign of incitement against the Israeli Arab community is dangerous and irresponsible because it gives the green light to the security forces to create provocation on Land Day," said Mohammed Baraki, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash). According to Arab leaders, allegations against the Arab sector include reports that Land Day activities were being coordinated with the Palestinians. Similar comments were made by Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Forum of Arab Council Heads, who said he hoped police and security forces would not stage a show of force in Arab towns and villages on Land Day. "The presence of large forces of police would be like a provocation and would only serve to heat up a situation which we are trying to keep under control by urging people to act with responsibility and within the law," said Suleiman. Raine Marcus contributed to this report.



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In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the jack of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysa Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 374976 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 073996 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets numbered 605149, 161834, 068368, 191258, 011850, 823280, 811519 and 439217 all won NIS 5,000.

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מקדמות האכל



# Dagan: US must push PA harder

By STEVE RODAN

Israel might increase pressure on the Palestinian Authority until it has no choice but to cooperate in the fight against Islamic terrorism, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Meir Dagan, the prime minister's adviser on counterterrorism, indicated yesterday.

Speaking at a conference sponsored by the International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism in Herzliya, Dagan said, "Only heavy pressure from Israel and the international community on the PA—and when I say international pressure, I mean from the US and prevention of diplomatic PA achievements and maybe even threats against its survival will influence [Yasser] Arafat and the PA to constantly fight Islamic terrorism."

Dagan said such a campaign by Arafat must include the elimination of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist infrastructure, an end to hostile propaganda, and a collection of unauthorized weapons. He said the PA must also extradite suspected terrorists to

Israel.

The conference ended with a call by several former heads of Western intelligence agencies for an international effort against terrorism that would increase cooperation and stop funding of terrorist groups. The signatories included former CIA director James Woolsey, former Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit, and former US assistant secretary of state Edward Djerejian.

Officials said any new Israeli counterterrorism policy will be determined by the visit of US peace process coordinator Dennis Ross and what happens on Land Day on Sunday. They said their concern includes scenarios of massive unrest, orchestrated by the PA, in which thousands of Palestinian rioters will seek to overrun IDF outposts and enter Jerusalem.

"The situation is very fluid," said Gideon Ezra, deputy chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "We are working from day to day."



OJ trial judge visits Jerusalem

Judge Ito Kato, who presided over the O.J. Simpson trial, passes a beggar on the Via Dolorosa while touring Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Henders)

# IDF evacuates Joseph's Tomb, closes roads

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF yesterday morning closed a portion of the Dolev-Beit El road and advised residents to use an alternative route due to the tense situation.

In Judea and Samaria yesterday there were reports of an increase in incidents of stones being thrown at passing cars.

According to Yehuda Liebman, director of the Nablus Command organization, yesterday morning the IDF informed them to evacuate the compound.

"Every time the Palestinians threaten violence, the IDF evacuates us," he said.

Liebman added that the yeshiva students were told they would be unable to return to the compound until Monday.

The IDF confirmed the closure of Joseph's Tomb to worshippers but refused to comment on the length of time it would remain closed.

As Land Day draws closer and amid fear of an escalation in violence, the IDF once again ordered worshippers and Od Yosef Hai yeshiva students at Joseph's Tomb to leave the area.

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# Caves discovered at Har Homa

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

The discovery Wednesday of three caves on Har Homa added a new twist to the problematic project, and fueled speculation about the possibility of Palestinians and haredim demonstrating together to stop construction at the site.

Early reports said the finds included bones, and even a possible graveyard, but that was denied yesterday

by both the Antiquities Authority and the Housing Ministry.

"We don't know yet whether there are graves or not," said Moshe Eilat, a spokesman for the Housing Ministry. "Even if we know, there are solutions to it. We have to check it, and this will take a few days, but this is not going to stop us from what we have to do."

Eilat said he did not foresee the curious combination of religious

Jews joining militant Arabs in protest.

"Haredim are not going to protest because we are going to do whatever has to be done according to Halacha," he said.

Osnat Goaz, spokeswoman for the Antiquities Authority, said that although the reports of bones being found are not true, "we do think that we will find some in the future, because it's an archeological site, and we know from the past that when we do excavations in places like that, normally we find bones."

Goaz said the site around the

whole area of Har Homa was agricultural land during the Second Temple period. Later it was the site of Byzantine Christian monastic activity, when it was known as St. Paul's Hill.

A member of the Knesset, a haredi group that seeks to preserve ancient burial sites, said that even if burial caves were found at the site, arrangements could be made to allow further construction without disturbing the bones.

"A year ago a survey was done but nothing clear was discovered," said David Schmidt of Atra Kadisha.

"Checks will be made but there are always ways to get around the issue." The discovery of bones at other construction sites have sometimes led to large demonstrations by haredim.

Eilat said other arrangements are possible if and when they find bones: "There are solutions how to do it—you have to build above it, a little bit around it—there are solutions," he said.

Goaz said that "if it's a big find, we ask [the builders] to change their plans, or leave it open as an archeological site."

# NEWS

in brief

## Bomber's family appeals home demolition

The High Court of Justice will convene in urgent session on Sunday to hear a petition from the family of Mussa Ranimat, the Tel Aviv suicide bomber, against the decision to raze their house in Kfar Tsurif. Justice Eliezer Goldberg, who was on duty, issued an interim injunction against the destruction of the house. *Batseva Tsur*

## 971 Palestinians found here illegally

Since the closure was imposed on the territories after last Friday's suicide bombing, 971 Palestinians have been discovered inside the Green Line illegally. The police have checked some 5,500 sites. Police have opened criminal cases against 51 Palestinians caught here illegally more than three times. Cases also have been opened against eight Israelis who illegally hired Palestinians. *Itim*

## One killed in motorcycle accident

Maxim Schneiderman, 18, of Netivot, died last night when the motorcycle he and his friend Ronen Lagot were riding on overturned near Kibbutz Ruhama. Lagot, 22, who had gotten his motorcycle license only two weeks ago, was moderately injured.

Three brothers from Safed travelling through Netanya were injured—including a three-year-old who was seriously injured—when the driver lost control and slammed into a utility pole yesterday afternoon.

Nine people were lightly injured yesterday morning when two cars collided near Ramat Yishai. Five others were injured in a head-on collision between two cars near Ma'aleh Gilboa.

In Bat Yam, a 77-year-old man was hit by a motorcycle while crossing the street. He is in serious condition at Holon's Wolfson Hospital. *Itim*

## Spy Herzl Rad to be released today

Herzl Rad, who was sentenced two years ago to three years' imprisonment for contacting a foreign agent, is to be released today from Ma'asayahu Prison, after serving two-thirds of his sentence. In 1995, Rad, a Jerusalem resident, offered his services to officials at the Iranian Embassy in Istanbul. He was taken to Iran, signed up, given a contact person and promised \$10,000 if he successfully performed his assignments, including getting information from army bases.

Upon returning to Israel, Rad went to the security services and told them the story. He was arrested and charged with spying and assisting an enemy in time of war—charges which carry a sentence of death or of life in prison—but under a plea bargain the charge was reduced to contact with a foreign agent. *Itim*

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Internet II (HTML/Web, page design)  
May 2 - June 6  
Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 6 weeks (24 hours)



# Hizbullah leader: Peace inevitable

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah has declared that an Arab-Israeli peace settlement is inevitable.

Fadlallah, while maintaining his opposition to any such accord, nevertheless made it clear that he believes some sort of comprehensive peace agreement will ultimately be achieved.

The leading Moslem Shi'ite cleric was quoted in the English-language Beirut newspaper the *Daily Star* yesterday as saying that the Middle East is "likely to remain in a state of no war and no peace for some time."

"But a settlement between the Arabs and the Israelis is inevitable, irrespective of how long it takes to conclude," Fadlallah said.

He maintained that no matter how difficult the issues appear now, a compromise would be reached in due time.

Fadlallah, in an interview on the eve of the return to the region of US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, ruled out the possibility of

a major military conflagration in south Lebanon.

He maintained that the US would not give Israel the "green light" for such action because "any such aggression would produce the same results as in Grapes of Wrath when phenomenal feelings of anger surfaced in the Arab world and not only in Lebanon."

Meanwhile, scores of dignitaries from the security zone, as well as senior South Lebanese Army officers, were hosted in Tiberias on Wednesday.

The meeting also was attended by SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, government coordinator on Lebanon Uri Lubrani and senior IDF officers, including Col. Shaul Kamisa, head of the civil aid program to Lebanon.

Kamisa said the civil aid budget, which last year was just over \$7 million, would be increased to around \$7.4m. this year. Most of the money is to be spent on welfare projects and aid to families of bereaved SLA soldiers and officers and those wounded.

## Nahal leaves Lebanon

Soldiers from the Nahal brigade have pulled out of Lebanon in the past few days, after completing their stint of duty there despite the heavy losses the brigade suffered in the helicopter disaster over Moshav She'ar Yashuv and in fighting in the security zone.

Regional Brigade commander Col. Coby told reporters in the north on Wednesday, after the troops returned to the border from positions inside the zone, that their determination in the face of the losses was praiseworthy.

He stressed that the motivation of the soldiers, who enjoyed a brief respite before preparing for a training exercise, was extremely high. DR



### Up, up, and away

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai gets ready for take-off in the back seat of an F-15 yesterday. It was his first flight in a fighter and he spent 40 minutes in a flight that took him over Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, and along the Lebanese border. He was piloted by the F-15 squadron commander. A second F-15 was piloted by OC Air Force Eitan Ben-Eliahu, who had Mordechai's military aide, Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, in his back seat. (Tel. Arieh O'Sullivan; Photo: Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)

## Report: Hizbullah deploying deadly 'tank snipers'

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Hizbullah has started deploying three-man squads of "tank snipers" equipped with anti-tank guided missiles in South Lebanon, according to the London-based weekly newsletter *Foreign Report*.

In what is claimed to be an "exclusive," the newsletter said the units are equipped with AT-4 Spigot missiles, which have an "extremely

high" hit rate of 80 percent and have inflicted casualties every time they have been used against Israeli targets.

It quotes Western intelligence sources in Lebanon as saying the Hizbullah units "make excellent use of the AT-4s improved guidance systems and higher speed."

The latest operation, according to the newsletter, occurred last week when a well-trained, highly mobile "tank sniper" unit, based

on reliable intelligence, fired two missiles at an Israeli convoy traveling to a base near Beaufort Castle.

The missiles were fired from a distance of 1.5 kilometers and one struck a lorry, killing one IDF soldier and wounding three others.

Despite swift artillery, tank and helicopter reactions from Israel, the attackers were said to have escaped under a cover of mortar and machine-gun fire from a Hizbullah support team.

## SPNI to expand activities for Arabs

By DAVID RUDGE

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) intends to expand its activities in the Arab sector because of growing interest in environmental issues among Arab youth.

SPNI executive director Eitan Gidalizon said the society has opened branch offices in Sakhsin and Nazareth in the Galilee, and near Taiba in the Triangle, and intends to open more.

"The existing offices are very active, organizing training courses for guides, and hikes and study sessions for youth groups," said Gidalizon.

The growing interest in nature, conservation, and environmental issues was underlined by the number of participants in the annual meeting yesterday of the SPNI's Israeli Arab department, which is headed by Mahmoud Jezawi.

More than 12,000 schoolchildren took part in the event, organized in conjunction with the Education Ministry. It included hikes over parts of Mt. Carmel, followed by a meeting at Ramat Hanadiv near Zichron Ya'acov.

A number of foreign ambassadors also participated in the meeting, where plans were discussed for expanding joint nature projects with the Palestinian Authority.

"If we are searching for a common denominator in our region in these days of tension, I think we can find it in understanding and learning more about nature, as well as the need to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations," said Gidalizon.

## Jordanian gunman says girls mocked him

AMMAN (Reuters) - The Jordanian soldier who gunned down seven schoolgirls at Naharayim two weeks ago harbored deep anti-Israeli feelings but opened fire "on the spur of the moment" because the girls mocked him while he prayed, his lawyer said yesterday.

"I heard laughter and jeers and girls mocking me when I ended my prayers...I was outraged by one girl taking pictures and other girls laughing at me," Jordanian Sergeant Ahmed Dakamsa was quoted by lawyer Ahmad Najdawi as saying.

Najdawi is the first lawyer allowed to see Dakamsa since he emptied the clip of his rifle at the girls, who were on a school trip.

Dakamsa told Najdawi that he acted impulsively.

"It appears that the soldier's motives were patriotic and he acted out of a rage on the spur of the moment," said Najdawi, a prominent lawyer who often defends political activists.

"The man could not control his nerve and took hold of his rifle and started shooting, motivated by all the frustrations and injustice felt by an

Arab against Israeli arrogance," Najdawi said. "I cannot say he is a hero, but he is a nationalist who acted out of nationalist motives and frustration at what the Arabs are suffering."

Many Jordanians, reflecting hardened anti-Israeli views, say Dakamsa is a hero motivated by a deep sense of outrage over Israeli violence against Palestinians.

Lawyers have come to his defense, demanding he be treated with the same leniency they say Israel has shown to perpetrators of violence against Arabs.

Najdawi said he found Dakamsa "normal, with no signs of being beaten" by his interrogators.

He described him as a simple "unpolitical peasant" who "watched television screens and was filled with a sense of humiliation and helplessness by the treatment of Arabs by Israelis."

Asked about reports that Dakamsa was mentally unstable, Najdawi said he saw no proof of any abnormal behavior but that he might request the soldier be referred for medical examination when his trial begins.

## Labor panel does not rule out 'limited' Palestinian state

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Party's next platform may recognize the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and perhaps to limited statehood.

A resolution to this effect will be submitted for the approval of Labor's convention in May, after it was adopted by the party's political committee yesterday.

The resolution says that "the Labor Party recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination and it does not rule out a Palestinian state with reduced sovereignty."

Previous Labor platforms always strenuously opposed the establishment of a Palestinian state. Before the last election, however, this opposition was dropped, though not replaced with support for such a state.

The resolution says Jerusalem should "remain united under Israeli sovereignty, but with municipal autonomy for its Arab residents."

The resolution's adoption marks a defeat for would-be party leader Ehud Barak, who opposed them strenuously and even came out against putting the subject on the convention's agenda.

"I don't think the Labor Party ought to deliberate the issue. It's none of our business," Barak said. "It's high time Labor ceased taking up such issues with so much misguided passion. It is not up to us to determine what the other side should want... Our responsibility is to look after the interests of the State of Israel."

"Whether they will have a state is up to them. It is not inconceivable that, as a result of the Oslo process, a Palestinian state will come into being, though perhaps it will be limited somewhat in certain aspects of sovereignty."

Barak stressed that he would "prefer the option on a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan, which would be best for all, but I do not delude myself that we will decide this."

The political committee is headed by another contender for party leadership, MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, who drafted the resolution. He explained that such a state "would be demilitarized and its authority would not be full."

MK Yossi Beilin, also in the running, applauded the fact that "at last the great deception in Labor regarding a Palestinian state is over. Anyone who tries to escape its inevitability will lose his credibility. At the convention no one will be able to escape this issue and it will become the central focus of debate."

However, secretary-general Nissim Zvillil said that "this foolish resolution will not pass the convention. If it does, it will have a very detrimental effect on Labor's chances to win back the public's confidence and regain support."

The Likud expressed "sorrow at the fact that Labor is so concerned about the Palestinians, instead of working to achieve a broad national consensus in Israel."

The NRP reacted by saying that "at this rate, it won't be very long before Labor advocates the redhibition of Jerusalem."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, however, mocked Labor for being "20 years behind the times."

"This party has an astounding knack for regarding history's rear end, instead of meeting it face-to-face," he said.

Another Labor committee preparing for the convention recommended yesterday that the party move to rescind the direct election of the prime minister. The resolution called on the party to seek to reinstate the previous system, in which the president entrusts one of the elected MKs with putting together a coalition. The only change would be that the president must appoint only the leader of the largest faction, and not the one who might head the largest bloc.

This represents a victory for party chairman Shimon Peres, who had battled against the direct election system.

## IDF demands professor retract 'ass' remark

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF has demanded that Prof. Ariel Merari of Tel Aviv University apologize for comparing IDF officers to asses tied to a tree.

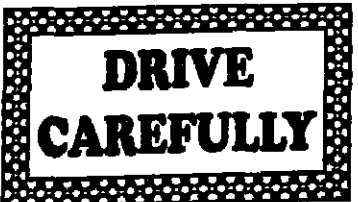
Last week, Merari allegedly told students in his course on terror and political violence: "Take an ass, tie it to a tree, and after five years, you've got a major."

Merari then joked he hoped there were no members of the media present. But his quip, made as the class discussed criticism of military officers, was reported this week in *Ma'ariv*.

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami, in a statement to the press, sharply protested the comment.

"There is no room for this strange humor as expressed by the professor. It was an unfair blow to IDF officers, and the IDF demands Merari apologize," the statement said.

Merari did not return telephone calls and has not publicly reacted to the IDF's demand.



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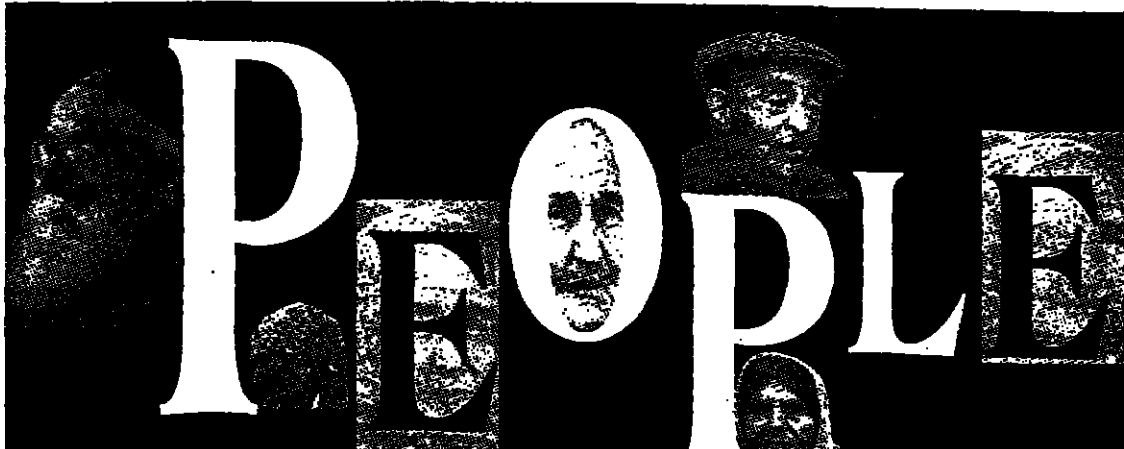
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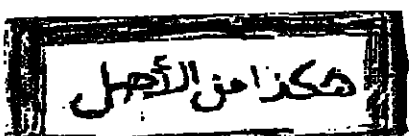
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# Schizophrenic Jaffa man murders wife

By RAINE MARCUS

A schizophrenic Jaffa man stabbed his 35-year-old wife to death in the early hours of yesterday morning, while the couple's two children watched.

The man, who has been hospitalized several times in Bat Yam's Abarbanel Mental Health Center and diagnosed as a schizophrenic, is taking drugs prescribed by a psychiatrist for his condition and has reportedly had violent outbursts in the past.

The tragic incident occurred at around 3 a.m. yesterday at the Jaffa home of Yusuf and Salima Johar. Yusuf Johar, 37, accused his wife of cheating on him and of

being a prostitute and stabbed her eight times with a kitchen knife, in front of the couple's two children, aged 11 and 13.

He then phoned police, saying, "I killed her, the whore." A Magen David Adom physician pronounced Salima Johar dead and Yusuf Johar was arrested. He will appear in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning, and may be sent for psychiatric observations because of his history of mental illness.

The couple's children are being taken care of by Jaffa social services and relatives until their future is decided.

Social services sources slammed the mental health division yesterday, saying that if they would have known of Yusuf Johar's condition they would have intervened.

Neighbors of the couple described the Johars as "quiet" and said they had neither witnessed nor heard violent acts in the past.

# Laufer accused of tax evasion

By RAINE MARCUS

Private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, currently on trial in the media wiretapping case, and who was paid \$600,000 by Ma'ariv to give evidence against Yediot Aharonot, was arrested for alleged tax evasion yesterday.

Laufer, who is charged with 18 counts of wiretapping, allegedly on behalf of Yediot Aharonot, was summoned by Customs and VAT Authorities yesterday morning. He was released on NIS 300,000 bail by a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court judge later in the day.

Laufer made headlines when it was disclosed that Ma'ariv, after receiving the necessary authorization from police and the District Attorney, paid Laufer \$600,000

net from company funds in return for his testimony against Yediot publisher Amon Mozes and the daily's security officer, Haim Rozenberg. According to the agreement between Ma'ariv and Laufer, the former would pay all taxes and VAT on the sum.

But now, Customs and VAT Authorities are accusing Laufer of failing to pay taxes on what they allege are payments amounting to nearly NIS 4 million gross by Ma'ariv and over NIS 1m. by Yediot (the latter for alleged wiretapping services).

Laufer in turn claims that both dailies paid or were supposed to pay VAT on sums he received for various services.

Judge Ruth Ronen also prohibited Laufer from leaving the country.



Sue Fishkoff

## 'Post' writer wins award

Jerusalem Post Staff

Jerusalem Post feature writer Sue Fishkoff has won the 1996 B'nai B'rith World Center Award for Journalism for a two-part feature article on Ethiopia: Jewry that appeared in the Jerusalem Post Magazine last May. B'nai B'rith announced yesterday.

Fishkoff wrote about her trip to Ethiopia with a group of teenagers who were visiting their native villages for the first time since immigrating to Israel as children.

Fred Zarin received an honorable mention for her weekly radio program, In the Diaspora, on Reka, Israel Radio's immigrant station.

The B'nai B'rith World Center established the award, in memory of Wolf and Hilda Matsdorf, in 1991 to encourage Israeli journalists to report more extensively on the Diaspora and thus increase public awareness about World Jewry. The \$1,000 award is given for the print or electronic piece which the jury feels best contributes to the Israeli public's knowledge of the Diaspora.

Fishkoff has decided to donate the prize money to the Joint Distribution Committee's medical clinic in Addis Ababa.

This year's jury included Chicago Sun Times' Middle East bureau chief Jay Bushinsky, Dan Pacific and Ariel editor Asher Weill.

## AACI to put job listings on Internet

By JUDY SEGEL

A national job database for new immigrants and veteran Israelis will be launched by mid-May by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel. Called AACI Israel Jobnet, it will be put on the Internet before Independence Day.

The system, being developed by Ventura Communications and IBM Israel, will link AACI offices with the Internet. The system, which will cost \$250,000 in its first year, will enable potential immigrants around the world, new immigrants and long-time Israelis to review jobs available here.

Yossi van Zwaren, of the Ministry of Science, views Jobnet as a "strategic project to advance Internet use in Israel."

It was only one of seven Internet projects chosen from among 40 proposals to receive matching funds from the ministry. Money was also donated by the Samis Foundation of Seattle, Washington, which aims at encouraging aliya and expediting absorption.

The database "is a natural extension of the internal job database that AACI counselors have been using for years to help olim," said organization national president Helaine Gerber.



No strings attached

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo takes part in a 'Hartzuffim' skit filmed in a Tel Aviv cafe yesterday.

(Gideon Markowicz)

## Purim drinking-related injuries on the rise

By JUDY SEGEL

Treating inebriated yeshiva students has become the main chore of Magen David Adom medics and Tereim doctors in Jerusalem on Purim, instead of helping children in burning costumes or those harmed by foam sprays and explosives.

The Jerusalem Post learned yesterday that the number of drunken yeshiva students - most of them haredim who took seriously the commandment of imbibing wine until they can't distinguish between "Blessed be Mordechai" and "Cursed be Haman" - was

greater this week than in previous years.

Dr. David Applebaum, founder and director of the Tereim (Emergency Medical Care) clinic at the capital's MDA station, said that numerous yeshiva students in their late teens and early 20s were brought in on Monday night. Most drunks are taken care of by families or friends at home or school, but these had fallen down and suffered cuts or bruises or were vomiting violently, mused to drinking to excess.

"When I attended yeshiva in Chicago," said Applebaum, who is Orthodox, "we understood the

same time, the number of cases of injuries due to children's costumes being set afire or from cap guns and explosives was negligible this year, apparently due to warnings about these in the media," he said.

Applebaum said that the drunk yeshiva students, all of whom were brought in by friends and relatives, needed stitches for injuries, and some were given infusions to dilute the concentration of alcohol in their blood.

"I have no statistics, but the phenomenon seems to be growing. At

the same time, the number of mitzva of drinking on Purim as taking in enough to put you to sleep, when you can't distinguish between Mordechai and Haman. But these young men are going too far and out of control. There should be more supervision and advance warnings by their rabbis."

MDA Jerusalem director Avraham Halberberg said his staff had to pick up a number of drunk yeshiva students who fell in the street or who felt unwell in their yeshivot. He said he was not aware of road accidents caused by drunk yeshiva students, but "it's the job of the police to investigate such cases if someone is hurt in an accident, because they have the equipment to test alcohol levels in the blood. We can smell alcohol, but the patient can always claim it spilled on him."

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19:30 Light Refreshments

20:00 Mark Shechner, State University of New York at Buffalo  
 "American Jewish Writers at the End of History"

Chair: Aryeh Goren, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## NEWS in brief

### High Court refuses to halt Bar-On probe

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition from lawyers Shmuel Mintzer and Karmon Mintzer-Dolfin requesting that the police investigation into the Bar-On Affair be stopped and ordered the two to pay court costs of NIS 9,000. The two had argued that the entire affair could not be investigated because the people involved have immunity.

The two petitioners ignored one of the basic rules ... with regard to [appealing to] the judiciary - taking up the matter with all concerned in the relevant authority," the court ruled, after hearing that they had not turned to the state attorney or the attorney-general before they petitioned the court. *Batsheva Tsor*

### Arbel opposes postponing Deri trial

The State Attorney Edna Arbel's office is opposed to a request from MK Aryeh Deri (Shas) that his trial be postponed by 45 days. Deri claimed that his trial had been affected, inter alia, by his lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak's resignation and developments in the Bar-On investigation. He said that it was also necessary to call witnesses from abroad. The State Attorney's Office argued that Deri's lawyers have had sufficient time to get their material organized. *Batsheva Tsor*

### Hospital workers declare work dispute

The union of government hospital administrative and maintenance personnel yesterday declared a work dispute over the shortage of 1,500 job slots around the country. The labor unrest follows the resolution of a dispute over salary grades by their counterparts in Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals. Union head Batya Levy told Health Minister Yehoshua Matza that unless their demands are met within two weeks, they will apply sanctions and strike. The shortage of working hands intensifies the problem of working in overcrowded hospital departments, she said. *Judy Siegel*

### New Jewish university opening in Moscow

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer this week reached agreement with the Russian education minister on the establishment of a new Jewish university in Moscow, the Education Ministry spokesman announced. Hammer is in Moscow for a convention of the Jewish communities there.

Hammer also reached a series of agreements with the Russian culture minister, including joint celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary and 850 years since the founding of Moscow, and a special exhibition in Moscow by the Israel Museum. The Russian culture minister also accepted Hammer's invitation to visit Israel. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Schools to study together via the Internet

Israeli and Diaspora youngsters will study together via the Internet in a new program announced this week by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. Hundreds of schools from Jewish communities abroad and throughout Israel will participate in the project. The pupils will study together topics such as the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress, and preparations for Israel's 50th anniversary. The pupils will ultimately get a chance to meet in person during the summer. The pupils are studying together through a "twin schools" set-up that allows for contact both via electronic mail and video-conferencing. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Doctor back after being held in Morocco

Prof. Daniel Weinstein, head of the obstetrics unit at Hadassah-University Hospital, was due to return from Morocco yesterday, after being refused permission to leave there for eight days because of a dispute about unpaid convention bills.

Weinstein had organized an international convention in Marrakesh that was attended by 1,000 people from 78 countries, including 120 from Israel.

The dispute arose when the hotel claimed some \$100,000 in unpaid bills from the Moroccan organizers, who then turned to Weinstein and demanded he pay the bill. Weinstein refused, insisting that all the doctors had paid in full when they registered for the convention. The organizers filed a police complaint and got an order preventing him from leaving Morocco.

During a court hearing, however, the missing money was "discovered," the complaint was canceled, and Weinstein was allowed to return home. *Itim*

### Harel slams British deputy FM

Third Way Knesset faction chairman Yehuda Harel, in a letter sent yesterday to British Ambassador David Manning, slammed Britain's deputy foreign minister for saying that Israeli products produced in Jerusalem should be boycotted. He said such a move could result in a counter-boycott of British goods by both Israelis and World Jewry. Harel also called on Foreign Minister David Levy to send a strong protest to the British government, and said he would raise the matter in the Knesset. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

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It was his first flight to the Lebanese border. It was Ben-Elihu, who had been a member of the Arab Defense Force.

gunman locked him

job against Israeli army (ajidawi) said. "I cannot say for sure, but he is a nationalist, a member of the Arab Defense Force, and a member of the Arab Defense Force."

Many Jordanians, reflecting anti-Israeli views, are motivated to keep sense of outrage over the violence against Palestinians.

Lawyers have come to his defense, demanding he be treated with more leniency. They say last night, the perpetrators of the attack are Arabs.

Napier said he found the "normal" with no signs of "anger" by his interrogators.

He described him as a "unintentional peasant" who had been in a stressful situation, filled with a sense of familiarity, helped by the news of the Arab Defense Force.

Asked about reports that he was mentally unstable, Napier said he saw no proof of any behavior that would suggest the soldier he referred to was a threat to his safety.

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Ross's return

American mediator Dennis Ross is coming to town again, a sure sign the peace process is in trouble. Crises have a rhythm to them, and Ross seems to have waited until this one is at its peak, ripe for resolution.

In recent years, Land Day has passed relatively quietly, turning into more of a holiday for the Israeli Arab community than a day of strikes and protests.

Fatah head Marwan Barghout claims that these protests will be "peaceful," but when asked whether "peaceful" included throwing stones, he said "Yes. Including stones. I don't think that stones are violence. It is peaceful to throw stones."

Perhaps this is the problem. Israelis just don't understand that violence is peace and peace is violence. If only Israelis would accept the fact that violence is peace, then they could live in peace forever.

It is at this point that most Israelis naturally ask themselves, is this a peace process, or some kind of Orwellian nightmare?

It was one thing, perhaps, when, last September, the Palestinians resorted to violence before Binyamin Netanyahu's government had proven that it would continue on the Oslo track.

But since then Israel has been fulfilling its obligations under Oslo like clockwork; it redeployed from most of Hebron, released Palestinian women prisoners, and tried to implement the first of three further redeployments on schedule.

The current crisis arises from the Palestinian demand that Israel go beyond Oslo in two respects: freeze all building in eastern Jerusalem (and in Judea and Samaria), and increase the area of the first redeployment from the proposed 9 percent to something like 30 percent of the territory.

There is no basis for the Palestinian claim that Oslo requires either of these steps. Yet Arafat has clearly lifted impediments to violence against Israel in response. Even Ross admits that Arafat, if not giving a "green light" to ter-

ror, has not given a "red light." In September Israelis learned that if Oslo was not continued, the Palestinians would claim that they had no choice but to resort to violence. Now Israelis are to understand that abiding by Oslo is not enough - Israel must abide by the Palestinian interpretation of Oslo, however unfounded, or there will be violence.

In short, Israel must not only implement Oslo but go beyond it, while the Palestinians are not bound by the only real commitment they made under Oslo - the commitment to renounce and combat violence.

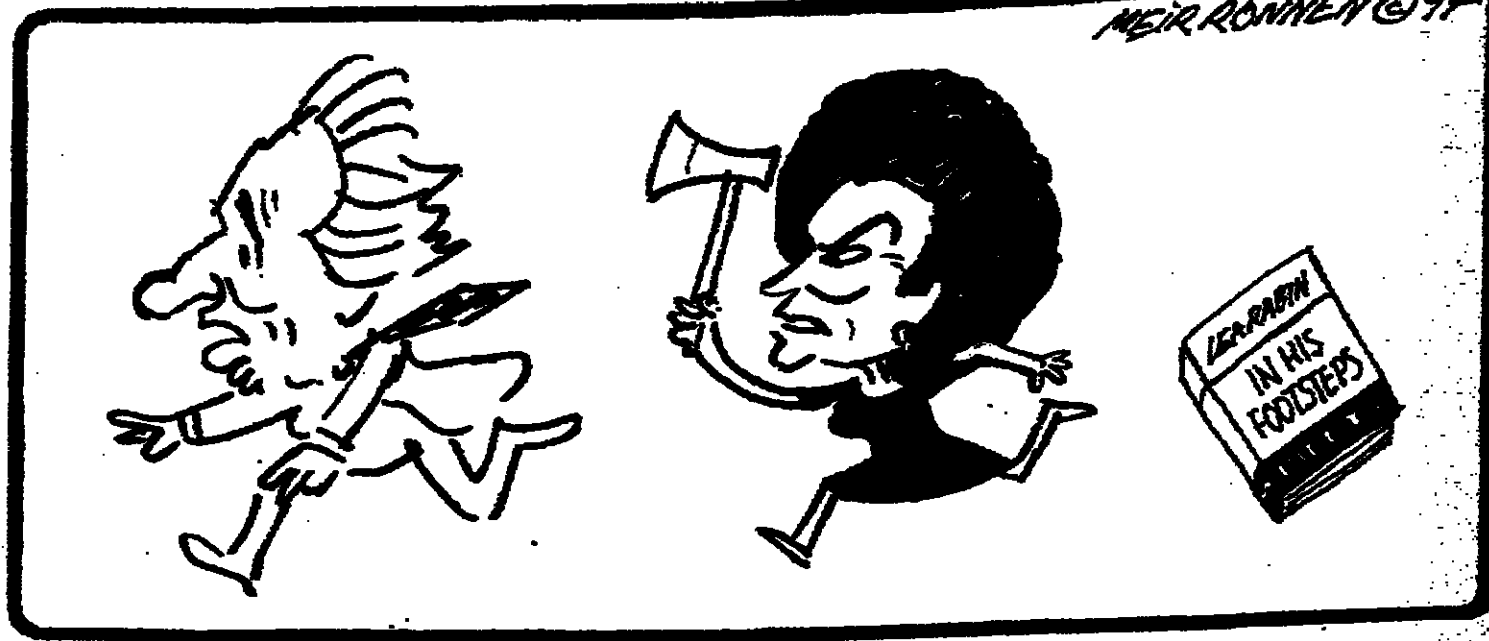
At each stage of the process, that Palestinian commitment has been reiterated in greater detail - as if it was not fully understood and needed to be spelled out - but to no avail. The repeated restatements of this commitment have been about as effective as talking louder when someone doesn't understand the language you are speaking.

The latest restatement was signed just 10 weeks ago by our regular visitor, Dennis Ross. The Note for the Record ostensibly reflected the agreement of Israelis and Palestinians on a road map for progress in the near term. Since then Israel has, like a good boy, scrupulously implemented the "responsibilities" on its side of the ledger.

The list of "Palestinian responsibilities" reads, in part: "2. Fighting terror and preventing violence - a) Strengthening security cooperation; b) Preventing incitement and hostile propaganda; c) Combat systematically and effectively terrorist organizations and infrastructure; d) Apprehension, prosecution and punishment of terrorists; e) Requests for transfer of suspects will be acted upon; f) Confiscation of illegal firearms."

Today this list reads like a bad joke. In practice, the Palestinians have acted on none of commitments in the Note for the Record, which were to be dealt with "immediately and in parallel." If anything, the Palestinians are further from implementing these commitments today than the day they were made.

Before the Hebron agreement, Arafat was fond of saying, "I am not asking for the moon; I am only asking for what has been signed upon." He may not have been asking for the moon then, but he is now: He is asking for Israel to go beyond an agreement which he has ripped to shreds. Now it is Israel that is not asking for the moon - only that Dennis Ross, the very Dennis Ross whose name appears on the Note for the Record, demand that Arafat live up to his side of the bargain.



A call for permanent closure

Did we really need another reminder that potential murderers are walking the streets of our cities?

Did we not know that there are hundreds, maybe thousands, of potential suicide bombers among the Palestinian population in Judea and Samaria and Gaza?

Did we not know that when over 100,000 Palestinians work in manual labor in the Israeli economy, it is more than likely that some of them are potential suicide bombers, while others, who have no permits for work in Israel, can easily immerse themselves in this mass of workers and move freely in Israel seeking targets for their murderous schemes?

Did we not know that thousands of Palestinians who have no work permits nevertheless find employment in Israel, while many of those with work permits flout the requirement that they return to their homes each evening?

Was it not clear that this situation creates a constant danger to the citizens of Israel - men, women, and children?

And nevertheless, except for short intermissions after each act of terror, when a closure of the territories has been ritually imposed for a few days or weeks, we allow this mortal danger to invade our cities in the vain hope that it will not strike. What can possibly justify this recklessness?

A number of arguments are put forth to justify utilizing Palestinian workers in the Israeli economy:

MOSHE ARENS

First, that some branches of our economy are dependent on cheap manual labor, and that this kind of labor is readily available among the Palestinian population of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Second, that preventing Palestinians from earning their livelihood in Israel will damage the Palestinian economy, and the

There are many good reasons why Israel should in any case learn to get along without imported labor, utilizing its own labor force, except for requirements of its temporary nature.

This may put some labor-intensive activities out of business and increase the cost of certain other economic activities, but it is prob-

Cheap labor for Israel's economy is too high a price to pay for having potential murderers roam our streets

resulting distress will breed frustration and anger among the Palestinians, providing fertile ground for the recruitment of terrorists.

Third, that the closure cannot be implemented hermetically, so that those intent on carrying out acts of terrorism will in any case be able to infiltrate into Israel.

On closer inspection, these arguments are found to have only limited validity.

That Palestinian workers can be replaced by other foreign workers has been convincingly demonstrated in recent years. The price differential is not significant, and is certainly not worth the risk incurred by the use of Palestinian workers.

ably well worth the cost in terms of the resulting benefits to Israeli society; and it will be good for the structure of the economy in the long run.

It is true that the Palestinian economy is dependent to a considerable extent on the income of Palestinians working in Israel and that, therefore, closing Israel to these workers would have a negative effect on the standard of living in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The resulting disaffection might bring new recruits for Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide squads - but it seems that the frequency of these acts of murder is limited by logistic factors, rather than by the number of candidates prepared to undertake these missions. There

seem to be more than enough candidates.

As for the Palestinian economy, it is high time that rich Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait utilized Palestinian workers in their economies, and that the European countries, always eager to remind Israel of its responsibilities, played their part. Employing Palestinian workers constitutes no danger to them.

The welfare of the Palestinian population is certainly in Israel's interest, but it cannot justify allowing people intent on murder to walk the streets of our cities.

Closing Israel to the entry of Palestinians is neither easy, cheap, nor foolproof. Entry from Gaza, the primary center of terrorist infrastructure, can be restricted with greater ease than entry from Judea and Samaria.

However, once Palestinians workers no longer frequent Israel's cities, once the lone terrorist that has succeeded in infiltrating can no longer camouflage himself among a mass of Palestinian workers, the probability of suicide bombers carrying out their designs will decrease considerably.

The chance that a permanent closure will make it a great deal more difficult to carry out acts of terrorism in Israel seems well worth the cost and the penalties incurred.

The writer is a former defense minister.

The comfortable alternative

Do I lack madmen, that ye have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? (Samuel I, 21:16).

Back in 1956, during the intermediate days of Succot, the Society for the Exploration of Eretz Yisrael and its Antiquities held its 11th Congress at Ramat Rabel in Jerusalem, as it did - and has done - every year.

Hundreds of people assembled excitedly on the outskirts of the kibbutz to hear a fascinating lecture, delivered by Prof. Ya'acov Pinkerfeld, on the remains of the synagogue that had just been excavated there.

Meanwhile, opposite the kibbutz, some 300m. away in an army outpost in Jordanian-controlled territory near the Mar Elias monastery (next to Har Homa), Jordanian troops were getting ready to open fire at congress participants.

In the space of a few minutes, they wounded 60 people and killed four, including my father.

I was just a boy in Jerusalem, but I clearly remember how this cold-blooded act in which soldiers of the Jordanian Legion used archeology buffs for target practice, was widely termed "deranged."

The "deranged soldier" has made his appearance regularly over the decades, like a member

YOSHI SHOVAL

of an itinerant circus, figuring in many shooting incidents, firing into Jerusalem's Old City from above its walls prior to 1967, as well as on Israeli settlements.

In the recent killing of schoolgirls as they visited "Peace Island" at Naharayim, the murderer was again immediately tagged

does not die; he just changes his nationality.

In 1985, at Ras Burka in the Sinai, he was Egyptian. Appearing out of the blue, he calmly took the lives of a group of Israeli vacationers. But he was "deranged," so what could anyone do?

Want to kill without being a murderer? Make sure you're classified as 'deranged'

"a deranged Jordanian soldier" on both sides of the River Jordan.

How easy, how convenient, how comfortable for politicians, pundits, and others not affected.

Murder is terrible, unacceptable; but it is much more bearable if we can say that the perpetrator was "mad." And how comforting for the families; the killer was driven, not by wicked intention, oh no - merely by madness.

It's unfortunate, of course, and very bad luck for those who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, but when someone is "mad," you cannot attach any real blame to what they do.

The terrible irony, however, is that though their victims are gone forever, just like any other murder victims, the "deranged soldier"

As President Mubarak commented afterwards, "It's a small matter."

To even things up a bit, Israeli soldier Noam Friedman took great pains, even though "deranged," to reload his weapon as he executed his attack on Arab passersby in Hebron.

And I assume that had Baruch Goldstein of blessed memory remained alive and in our midst, he too would now be "deranged."

When a man dons army uniform and picks up a weapon, it seems he is very prone to derangement - like the soldier who murdered his father, and the one who killed his wife on return from reserve duty.

If a person shoots himself, one may claim that he is mad; but if he

shoots at others and kills them, he is a wicked, shameless murderer.

When King Hussein came to Hadassah Hospital on March 16 to visit the surviving schoolgirls and their teacher who had been shot at by the Jordanian soldier at Naharayim, I shook his hand, like everyone else.

What did I feel? In truth, I was too busy doing my job to think very much about anything else.

But a day or two later, I contemplated the link that ties my family to those schoolgirls, to the Ras Burka victims, and back through the decades to all the others at whom the "deranged soldier" has taken aim.

And I am grateful to be able to say that I have never felt any hatred either for Jordanians, or any other Arabs. I am free of such malignancy.

Losing my father so early in life at the hands of a Jordanian murderer did not crush my faith in people's essential striving for peaceful coexistence. I support the Oslo process, and accept all Arabs as my equal.

What I utterly condemn, however, is the easy affixing by politicians and other interested parties - and sometimes even the media - of the label "deranged soldier" to white-wash murder, plain and simple.

The writer is a senior public relations director.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESIGN!

Sir, - The senseless killings at Naharayim once more remind us of the volatile nature of the region we live in. While there does not seem to be much that can be done to stop rogue individuals, theirs and ours, stabilizing the general situation would greatly reduce these acts of terrorism.

In general, our actions vis-a-vis the Palestinians are nothing to be proud of. For example, when an Arab terrorist murders a Jew, his village, or town, is placed under curfew. But when Baruch Goldstein murdered dozens of Arabs, it was Arab Hebron which was placed under curfew.

We now have a prime minister who, because of his overriding ambition to reach the top, promised everything to everybody.

The reality of the world today, not to mention the opposing agendas of his various constituencies, put him in a no-win situation. He has angered those who voted for him to the point that some are in open rebellion against him. He has man-

Jerusalem municipal boundaries by a unilateral redrawing of the map. The decision to build there now was also unilateral, and while again legal, meant riding roughshod over the feelings and wishes of our Palestinian neighbors.

On the home front, his government is busy scrapping social achievements, such as improving, however slightly, education and the lot of the aged and disadvantaged. Improvements in the developed world are being sacrificed for the benefit of settlements and the ever-increasing appetite of the leaders of the haredi parties.

In view of this mess, there is only one honorable thing to do for Netanyahu: resign. He should restate his program - a program that can be implemented - and go to the people. However, I fear that he is not man enough to do this.

aged in the short space of eight months to undo most of the achievements of the previous government in creating trust and understanding with the president of the US, kings Hussein and Hassan of Morocco, and with the rulers of a number of Arab states.

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land that had been first captured by invading Jordanian and Egyptian forces in 1948 and recovered by Israel 19 years later in 1967.

HAR HOMA

the southernmost limits of the city far from so-called East Jerusalem.

Equally irritating is the deliberate misstatement that Har Homa lies in occupied territory when it actually is in liberated

THE SO-CALLED PEACE PROCESS

Seven Treasures").

When this so-called "peace process" first got underway, I told my friends it would not work. Can we ever satisfy them (Arafat & Co.)? Nothing has happened to change my viewpoint.

PLAIN MURDER

imizing - terror, the killing and maiming of Israeli men, women and children in order to attain their ends is not legitimate. Nor is indicating to Palestinians it is OK to throw stones and fire bombs at Jews in order to attain "peace."

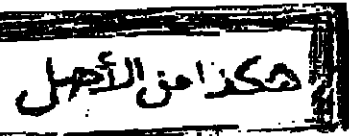
By putting murderers and those who send them on trial and, if they are found guilty, punishing them to the fullest extent of the law, we will be putting the Palestinians on notice: If you want to negotiate peace, we are ready. But murder is not a legitimate negotiating means.

And no one is above the law. Killing innocent civilians is murder, no matter what the murderer's goals and no matter who the murderer or the one who sends him is.

Sir, - As a tribute to those seven youngsters brutally murdered, I would like to suggest that you name the new housing project in Jerusalem: Sheva Oranot ("The

Sir, - Tzahi Hanegbi is wrong. Yasser Arafat should not be exiled to Tunis if he gives the green light to acts of terror which result in the death of Israelis. He should be put on trial for murder.

Sure, it is discomfiting for us if Arafat, frustrated as a result of a weak bargaining position, turns to Arab countries and even to the US and the UN for political support against Israel. Arguably, however, it is a legitimate - if, to us, irritating - ploy to use in order to attain leverage in negotiations with Israel to redress the imbalance he feels. But directing - or even legit-





# Arafat's 'Jerusalem now'

**U**S Secretary of State Albright, talking privately with members of Congress, reportedly said that faced with the current crisis with the Palestinians, Binyamin Netanyahu should set up a national unity government. Very likely someone passed Albright's view onto Jerusalem.

Netanyahu appeared in no hurry to act on this advice, but the administration unwittingly helped create national unity elsewhere - in the Palestinian camp.

Yasser Arafat's reception in the White House and his meetings in the State Department earlier this month led him to believe he could risk uniting the Palestinian rank and file with Oslo's Islamic opponents, who are for continuing the "armed struggle." And he received the impression that he no longer needed Israel's recommendation to get US aid.

**MOSHE ZAK**

to Gaza crowds of forthcoming attacks inside Israel - at just around the time his emissary was choosing his table in Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe.

With Palestinian popular support for Hamas operations arousing envy within Arafat's Fatah, the spiral of terror will widen.

The US believed it could cool things down by appeasing Arafat, ignoring intelligence reports about his encouraging terror, and by publicly calling on Israel to halt the bulldozers on Har Homa.

**Dennis Ross hopes to restart the talks, but he has reckoned without the PLO leader**

Arafat sensed he had the administration's respect, and saw it as even willing to sanction "unusual" measures aimed at allowing the Gazan in the street to let off steam. The US assumed, wrongly, that Palestinian anger could be vented via protest, obviating terror. Hence its raising no objection to Arafat's international conference in Gaza.

However, Arafat then interpreted what the Americans told him in a way radically different from what they had intended. When he got back from Washington, he met with the leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other opposition groups, and indicated they could "let off steam" via terror.

The Palestinian Authority's threats of force against the bulldozers on Har Homa, and Arafat's successes in the international offensive against the construction actually helped escalate the violence. And Arafat let the terror groups know that, unlike after last year's wave of attacks, there would be no severe punishment.

Getting this "amber light," Palestinians took to the streets of Hebron and Bethlehem, stoning and firebombing IDF soldiers; and Ibrahim Makadmeh, the Hamas leader newly released from Arafat's jail, screamed out

Its mistake was seeing Har Homa as the pivot of the crisis, and assuming that an Arafat-Netanyahu meeting would calm things down.

It didn't realize that the problem lay in the date of March 17, when final status talks were scheduled to resume. And it didn't think how Oslo had simply swept under the rug the huge gap between the sides on Jerusalem, the right of return, and the permanent status of the territories.

THE quarrel between Arafat and his opposition was not over Jerusalem. All agreed that it should be capital of a Palestinian state.

The quarrel was over tactics. The opposition didn't see eye to eye with Arafat on postponing the armed struggle for Jerusalem until Israel had handed over most of the territories.

Arafat wanted to exploit the interim period to build up the economic and military infrastructure of his state, but his plans went awry. The IDF's withdrawal from parts of Judea and Samaria were delayed.

While some Israelis hoped that the interim period would engender an atmosphere that would make the Palestinians more conciliatory over Jerusalem, the Palestinians doubted it. They knew exactly where Jerusalem figured in their plans.

When the date for final status negotiations approached, the "battle for Jerusalem" drew nearer and direct terror lurked in the background. But then the timetable of Israeli withdrawals became modified, and Arafat thought he could activate terror by "remote control."

But he is gradually losing control of the situation, carried along on the crest of the wave of popular protest he started, and pushed by international conferences to break off relations with Israel even before he gets more territory.

The possibility of a real crisis panicked the Americans into sending special envoy Dennis Ross to Rabat in Morocco to persuade Arafat to meet with Netanyahu and thus ease tension.

But since the present crisis was not caused by Har Homa but by Arafat's desire to bring the Jerusalem issue to the fore, the package deal Ross is bringing to the region is like a tranquilizer after a heart attack.

Some Israelis thought Jerusalem could be spun out for two more years, until the end of final status negotiations, but Arafat's provocative speeches at the Islamic conference showed otherwise. He wanted Jerusalem discussed, and he wanted it discussed amid threats and violence.

It is no accident that the violent student-IDF clashes erupted in Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem, and in Ramallah, just north of it. Arafat is using the road to Jerusalem to mold the Arab consensus, while trying to split the Israeli one.

Israel and the US must tell him that this maneuver won't work, that he cannot twist our arm on Jerusalem.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



# Who is above suspicion?

**I**n the light of this week's High Court decision, it appears that Elyakim Rubinstein will be the first attorney-general in Israel's history to be obliged to undergo a lie-detector test upon commencing his service.

His immediate predecessor, Roni Bar-On, who served for only one day, did not take the test. And Michael Ben-Yair was tested only a few months before his resignation.

Rubinstein, despite his principled opposition to the polygraph, declared upon his appointment that he would accept the decision of the cabinet committee the government designated to examine the issue. It goes without saying that he will accept the decision of the court, even though it conceded that the test is an infringement of personal privacy.

The court was not prepared to accept the argument that for Rubinstein, veteran of a quarter-century of public service of the most sensitive nature, an electronic inquisition would be, from the point of view of security and confidentiality, at best irrelevant.

It could be worse. In the US state of Georgia, urine tests are required of all public servants.

There are good reasons, of course, that the results of lie-detector tests are not admissible in evidence. Nevertheless, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat believes they have value, if used judiciously. The police seem to have their doubts.

In any event, there has been no suggestion that lie-detector tests be used in investigating the Bar-On appointment. It is difficult to believe that this is because credibility isn't an issue. Nor can it be because the police are going easy on the individuals involved, as the marathon interrogation of Justice

**ALLAN E. SHAPIRO**

Minister Hanegbi demonstrates. Perhaps the police have learned from experience.

Twenty years ago, at the direction of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the police were given the job of finding out who had leaked the Amoco Memorandum dealing with drilling rights of the Egyptian-American company in the Gulf of Suez, to the press. At that time, Shimon Peres and others refused to submit to lie-detector tests.

A decade later, in the Bus 300

**Odd that the credibility of the attorney-general isn't taken for granted, while that of the police is**

Affair, a Justice Ministry committee - which included the present state attorney, Edna Arbel - issued a public report that rejected the assertion of Avraham Shalom, head of the General Security Service, that he acted on the directive of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir in ordering the killing of two captured terrorists.

Again, neither Shalom nor Shamir underwent lie-detector tests.

No one appears to have suggested - let alone required - that police investigators take lie-detector tests to reveal the source of the leaks to the press in the course of the Bar-On investigation.

By an odd twist, the police seem to be the heirs of the older tradition in which public trust substitutes for formal rules to ensure the norms of public service.

On the face of it, the use of the polygraph to detect the source of leaks to the press would seem to make sense. There is, after all, a specific subject under investigation, therefore, is clearly circumscribed. Not so when the lie detector is used as a test of character or credibility. Since there is no specific subject of investigation, the investigator would have to decide for himself what is relevant. The range of possible avenues of investigation - and of possible infringement of personal privacy - is unlimited.

With all its drawbacks, this week's High Court decision carries a positive message for the new attorney-general, as he begins to evaluate the results of the police investigation in the Bar-On affair.

There is the clear hint that no exemption from the rules attaches to high public office. Either change the rules, the court declared, or apply them impartially.

As an appointee to high public office, Elyakim Rubinstein, so the High Court declared, enjoys no special privileges. As attorney-general, he has a large measure of discretion in applying rules to concrete realities.

The office of attorney-general is founded on the conviction that discretion and impartiality can go together.

The High Court has done its job. Now Rubinstein must do his.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

# Recognize what's already there

**T**he stewardess on the plane returning to Israel comes around with the customs and police forms that have to be filled in by anyone not holding an Israeli passport.

The couple sitting in the seats behind me ask whether they have to fill in these forms. They are, they claim, holders of the new Palestinian Authority travel documents.

Intrigued, I ask to see these documents. They are identical in every respect to Israeli passports, with two small exceptions. The cover of the passport is green, instead of the Israeli dark blue, and it bears the words "The Palestinian Authority."

The stewardess on the Swissair flight is at a loss to answer. She suggests that the couple fill in the forms; if it is later proved to have been unnecessary, they can always be discarded. This, she assures them, is preferable to not filling them in, then later holding people behind them up while they are asked to do so.

On our arrival in Israel, there is segregation. Israeli passport holders can move quickly through their own line, while foreign passport holders have to go through the regular, and often stringent, security checks.

I am intrigued to see what will happen to my Palestinian fellow travelers. What line will they stand in? Will their Palestinian "passports" be accepted as such, or will the couple be asked to produce travel documents which are recognized by the Israeli authorities?

I am ashamed to admit that, as is so often the case, practical concerns win out over satisfying curiosity. I rush through the line,

**DAVID NEWMAN**

look for my bags, and race for the customs in a hurry to get home.

And I admit it. I am always embarrassed when I see the treatment afforded all Palestinians entering the country, contrasted with the way bona fide Israeli passport holders are handled.

Women, children and the elderly

more, rather than less, complicated.

In the past, residents of the territories relied on the Israeli postal service, and used Israeli stamps. Today, the Israeli postal authorities no longer operate within the autonomy areas. Palestinians wishing to send letters abroad

**The symbols of Palestinian statehood are in place, a sign of reality**

are all subjected to rigorous security checks and interrogations, when all they want to do is get home to their families, like the rest of us.

The following day, I receive an interesting package in the mail. A Palestinian acquaintance has sent me the two new Palestinian stamps which have been issued by the Palestinian Authority. My son will be delighted. He will have two stamps which none of his friends have in their collections.

The stamps are interesting. One bears the image of Chairman Arafat; the other has as its background a picture of Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem.

But the stamps are, at the moment, only recognized by the Palestinian Authority. You can send a letter from Gaza to Ramallah, or from Hebron to Jenin - but that's as far as it goes.

Sending a letter from the West Bank to Israel, or to any other point on the globe, has become

have to find a way of bringing their letters into Israel and having them sent on from here.

THE existence, if limited use, of the passports and the stamps highlight the fact that while the Palestinians are creating all the symbols of statehood - they already have a flag, an anthem and an armed militia - Israel still refuses to recognize the Palestinian autonomy areas as anything but an "entity," something undefined but not, as far as Israel is concerned, a state.

But whatever the eventual territorial configuration, the Palestinian entity will formally be recognized as a state. When the time comes and the Palestinians apply for full UN membership, it is obvious that there will be an overwhelming international vote in favor of recognizing the de jure sovereignty of the Palestinian state.

The debate over Palestinian statehood is now part of the accepted discourse within Israel. Statehood has been implicitly rec-

ognized by such right-wing hawks as Minister Ariel Sharon and Binyamin Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan.

Contrary to yesterday's assertions by the prime minister that not every nation "necessarily requires statehood," the past 10 years have witnessed a proliferation of new nation-states throughout the world, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.

And what is modern Israel if not a fairly young nation-state on the world political scene? We were successful in achieving our self-determination; can we stop others from achieving theirs?

It is no longer the debate over the existence of a Palestinian entity/state that is important, therefore, but the way this entity/state behaves.

Will it threaten Israel, or will it act correctly, cooperating with us the way a good neighbor does? In short, can we function side by side without each society feeling threatened by the other? Will economic and other links so essential to regional stability be allowed to flourish, superseding political tension, or will enmity continue?

Stamps and travel documents may seem minor points of contention, but it is they, together with the flag, the anthem and the militia, that symbolize more than anything else the normalcy and potential stability one looks for at the end of the arduous search for peace in this troubled region.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

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مكتبة الاصل



# More cult suicides expected

ZURICH (Reuters) - The apparent mass suicide of 39 people whose purple-shrouded corpses were found lying in a California mansion seems to have extended a macabre string of ritual self-destruction by cult members.

Police probing the bizarre case declined to speculate on whether the victims belonged to a religious computer sect, as neighbors suggested, but cult experts said yesterday it bore the hallmarks of a fringe group's collective self-annihilation.

"I would not say this is a pattern that is becoming more common necessarily, but I do believe we are going to see more and more deaths as time goes by," said Ian Howarth, head of the London-based Cult Information Center.

"Because we are finding more and more cults, there will always be those where the leadership may well be quite mad and decide through some sort of paranoid reaction to do something extreme like this and take the people with them," he added.

"The potential for what hap-

pened in California is there in any cult. It is just up to the leader." Charismatic cult leaders intent on bending followers to their will have already shown the lethal power they can exert.

"People have this idea that cults recruit people who are lost, searching, gullible individuals who are probably not very intelligent," Howarth said.

"In fact, they are very intelligent. They are usually well educated people from middle to upper-class family backgrounds and people with high ideals," he said, citing reports that the California victims were high-level computer programmers.

Doomsday prophet Luc Jouret, head of the Swiss-based Renewed Order of the Solar Temple, was blamed for the deaths of 53 of his followers in Switzerland and Canada.

Five more believers in the Temple - an international sect that believes death by ritualized suicide leads to rebirth in a place called "Sirius" - killed themselves in Canada last week, bringing the

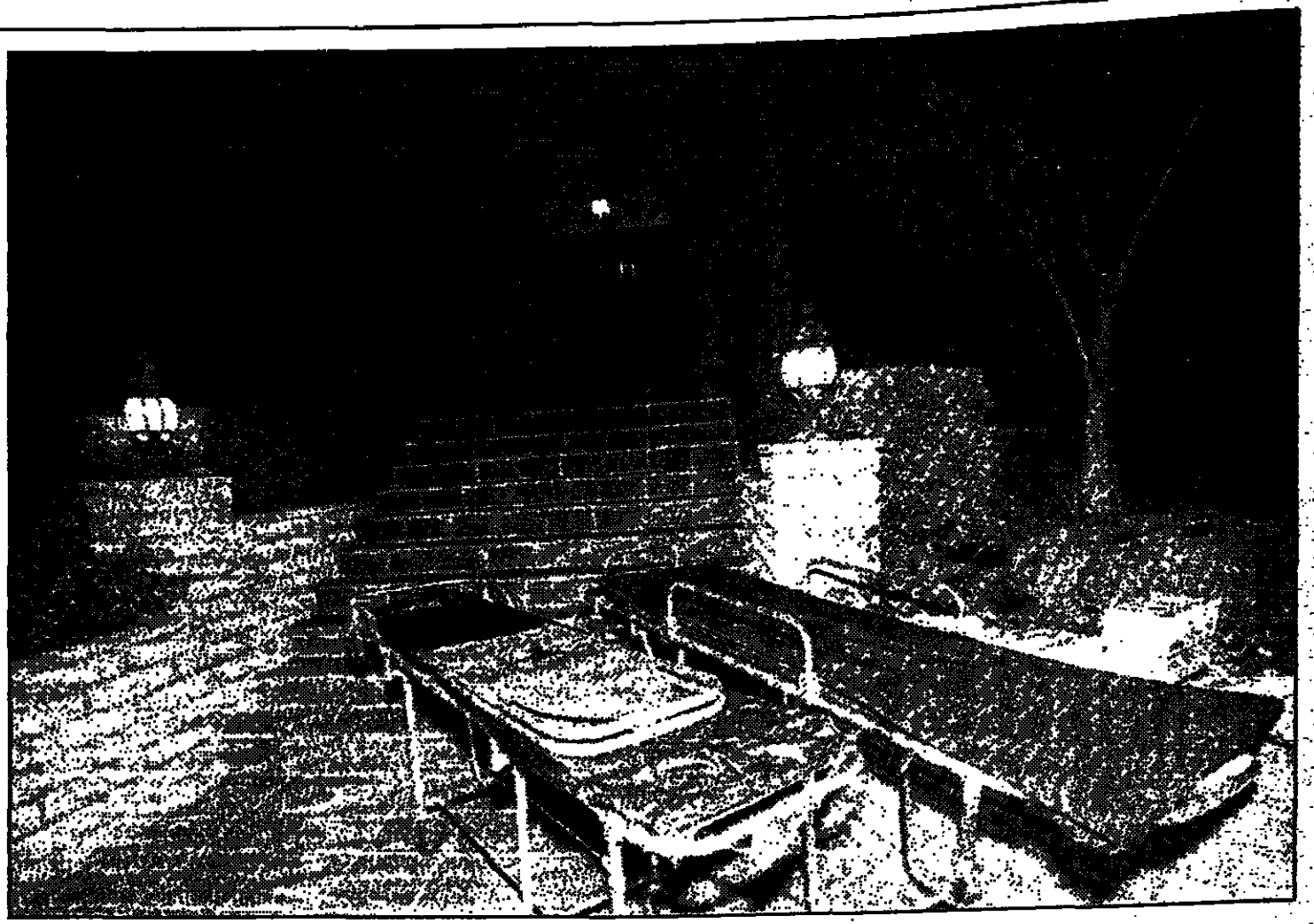
death toll among members and their families to 74.

In 1993, David Koresh, self-proclaimed Son of God, gathered his Branch-Davidian followers in a compound in Waco, Texas, and sent at least 70 men, women and children to their deaths in a fiery shoot-out with government agents.

Jim Jones led 913 followers into the Guyana jungle and persuaded them to commit mass suicide by drinking cyanide-laden Kool-Aid in 1978. He told them they were going to heaven.

In Japan, members of the quasi-Buddhist Aum Shinrikyo sect are accused of a 1995 sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway in which 11 people died and 5,000 were injured.

Mexican police blamed a minister's fervent belief in God for his death and that of 29 followers who suffocated in 1991 when he told them to keep praying and ignore toxic fumes filling their church. Ramon Morales Almazan shouted at his followers to remain calm as they began to choke, vomit and faint.



Stretchers wait outside a Californian mansion where 39 suicide victims were found on Wednesday.

(Reuters)

## NYC police find nerve gas container

NEW YORK (AP) - Police have found more than 750 liters of possibly hazardous materials, including a container labeled "sarin," a deadly nerve gas, in a home in an expensive neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City.

Two containers in the house also were marked "radioactive" but tests revealed no signs of radioactivity, reports said in *Newsday* and *The New York Times*, quoting unidentified sources.

A search of the house in the Douglaston neighborhood was conducted after officers arrested Lester Deily, 52, and charged him with reckless endangerment and willfully possessing a noxious chemical, police said.

Police did not immediately confirm whether the container with a hand-printed "sarin" label actually held the same kind of nerve gas

as was looted in Tokyo subways two years ago, killing 12 people and injuring thousands.

Police searched for "300 liters of gas, 750 liters of other highly flammable liquids, and two other canisters, including one labeled 'sarin' and one of compressed air," said a police spokesman, Jerry Varson.

About 300 people from 100 homes nearby were evacuated as a precaution but were allowed back at about 4 a.m., Varson said.

Police said they were tipped off to the stash by employees of Hewlett-Packard, who went to the Queens home seeking payment of a \$69,000 bill.

*The Daily News* said Deily barricaded himself inside the house and stood off police from about 1 p.m. to early evening, then was taken into custody peacefully.

## Zaire gov't, rebels to meet

LOME, Togo (AP) - Zaire's rebels and representatives from the government they are trying to topple will meet face-to-face in the coming days, probably in South Africa, a rebel official said yesterday.

"They have decided to be serious and meet us," Bizima Karaha, the rebel's foreign affairs strategist, said at the conclusion of a two-day summit of 15 African leaders in this West African capital.

But Karaha expressed some wariness about the planned meeting: "We don't trust them much because they are known for making promises they don't keep." The summit ended with a declaration calling for "a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities" as well as for immediate talks.

"We got both sides in the same room together and they've agreed to talk. That can only be seen as a step forward," said a US diplomat who attended the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the Zairian capital, government spokesman Biebie Ekialaba confirmed that negotiations were expected to take place in South Africa in the next few days, but said he had no details.

## Russian wage protest falls short of expectations

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of angry protesters braved freezing temperatures in Russia's two biggest cities yesterday to call on the government to quit, and demand speedy payment of overdue wages and pensions.

But the turnout in Moscow and in St Petersburg - and in other cities across the world's biggest country - was well below the 20 million forecast by trade union organizers.

Marchers were mostly resigned rather than aggressive and there were no reports of trouble.

"How long will the working people suffer to please the IMF and mafiosi capital?" asked Mikhail Nogaitsev, a senior official with the Moscow trade union organization. "We need

jobs, pensions, wages and social benefits." It was frosty and sunny in Moscow but 40,000 demonstrators in St Petersburg's Palace Square had to contend with heavy snow.

Local radio said factories had started paying wage arrears at 3 p.m. - just when the speeches got under way.

Trade unions, backed by Russia's communist opposition, had organized the strikes and demonstrations to protest at wage arrears of over 50 trillion roubles (\$8.8 billion), including 10 trillion from the state.

Millions of workers have not been paid for months, unable to afford the goods now crowding the shelves of once-empty shops.

Police across Russia reported tens of thousands of marchers and unions said hundreds

of thousands were on strike. But many strikers come from plants that are already idle and it was hard to say how many people were actively joining the protests.

"The Far East and Siberia have effectively expressed no confidence in the government," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told reporters as he joined the main Moscow rally.

"Changes in the government have convinced no one. This march is going from the Pacific city of Vladivostok to Kaliningrad (on the Baltic) and no one can stop it." Many marchers called on President Boris Yeltsin and his new government to quit.

"This is a political strike. We are going to pass a motion of no confidence in the presi-

dent," said a defence worker in the industrial and high-technology city of Novosibirsk, three time zones and 3,000 km east of Moscow.

Police said up to 20,000 people had marched in the city, which has a population of 1.5 million.

The protests are the first test for Russia's new cabinet, named over recent weeks. Unions had forecast 20 million people would turn out, including over 100,000 in Moscow.

The demonstrations will give an outlet to frustrations which have built up in the six years of economic reform - a painful process which has opened a yawning gulf between rich and poor.

Ministers have promised to resolve the crisis as quickly as possible.

## Peru hostage standoff: 100 days and counting

LIMA (AP) - The longest hostage standoff in Latin American history entered its 100th day yesterday, with rebels still occupying the Japanese ambassador's residence in a bid to win the freedom of jailed comrades.

Efforts to end the crisis and free the 72 hostages held inside the compound continued, while President Alberto Fujimori reiterated his resolve to pacify Peru.

"Terrorists must not be wandering around. Terrorists must not be free," he said. "Those who must be free are the citizens who work for Peru."

Speaking at a road dedication in the highlands, Fujimori promised to "completely pacify the country and not allow terrorism to return in any form."

Fujimori had promised to wipe out Peru's terrorist groups by the end of his first term in July 1995. He had pronounced the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement virtually defeated before the group seized the

ambassador's compound Dec. 17.

Meanwhile reports continued that a solution to the crisis was nearly at hand.

The Peruvian news media and the Japanese Kyodo news service both reported that rebel leader Nestor Cerna was ready to accept a deal that would take him and his Tupac Amaru terrorists to Cuba in exchange for freeing the hostages.

But Peru's opposition daily *La Republica*, citing unnamed sources in the anti-terrorism police, reported that the 15 or so rebels inside the compound were bickering over the issue.

Two of Cerna's lieutenants are upset that he is reportedly willing to cede ground on their key demand - freedom for hundreds of jailed comrades, the newspaper reported.

Other rebels with less political training are tired and simply want a quick end to the standoff, *La Republica* said.

A deal is reportedly in the works in which some, but not all, jailed Tupac Amaru rebels would get early release in exchange for the freedom of the hostages. The terrorists inside the residence would get asylum in Cuba.

Kyodo news in Tokyo, citing unnamed sources close to the negotiations, reported that Cerna believes he and his followers are better off going to Cuba rather than risking the breakdown of negotiations, which might convince Peru to use force to free the captives.

Cerna reportedly was worried that Roman Catholic Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, a close friend of Fujimori, was ready to quit the mediation team in frustration.

Cipriani has since gone to his archdiocese in the highland city of Ayacucho for Holy Week.

Cerna will meet Monday with the chief government negotiator, Domingo Palermo to discuss the plan for going to Cuba.

## Luther King's son visits Ray

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) - James Earl Ray told the son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in an extraordinary face-to-face prison meeting yesterday he did not kill the civil rights leader.

"I had nothing to do with shooting your father," Ray told Dexter King.

Later, 15 minutes into the meeting, Ray said when asked if he killed the civil rights leader: "No, I didn't. Sometimes you have to make a personal evaluation."

Dexter King replied: "I believe you and my family believes you."

The two met at the Lois DeBerry Special Needs Facility, where Ray is serving 99 years for killing King. He is being treated for terminal liver disease.

The King family has joined in a call for Ray to get a trial for the 1968 assassination in Memphis, saying that's the only way they'll know the truth about King's death.

King was shot as he stood on a hotel balcony in Memphis, where he had arrived to help direct a sanitation workers' strike. Ray, now 69, pleaded guilty to the slaying, avoiding a possible death sentence. He recanted a few days later and has been proclaiming his innocence ever since.

## Dalai Lama talks with Taiwan's leader

TAIPEI (AP) - In the face of Chinese opposition, the Dalai Lama and Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui met for the first time yesterday, signaling a "new beginning" in relations, the exiled spiritual leader said.

The meeting capped the Tibetan's unprecedented six-day visit to Taiwan, which Beijing denounced as a convention of "spiritualists" trying to break up China.

The visit paved the way for closer understanding between Tibetans and all Chinese, both in Taiwan and mainland China, since they all share Chinese heritage, the Dalai Lama told reporters.

His discussion with Lee, a practicing Christian, revolved mostly around religion, but the two also

discussed Tibetan refugees in Nepal and India and the setting up of a liaison office in Taiwan, he said. Taiwan Television reported the two spoke mostly in English for 45 minutes.

No decision was reached on such an office, but the Tibetan side sees "no problem" in establishing one, the Dalai Lama said.

The meeting with Lee was held at an official guest house instead of Lee's office to deflect suspicion that the Dalai Lama was being received as a foreign head of state.

In a statement, Lee's office called it a meeting of philosophers, and quoted the president as saying the enthusiastic welcome for the Dalai Lama in Taiwan testified to his charisma.

## Scots lose bid to ban TV debate

EDINBURGH (Reuters) - The Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) yesterday lost a legal bid to prevent its exclusion from a proposed pre-election television debate between Britain's prime minister and main opposition leader.

The SNP had wanted its leader Alex Salmond to join Prime Minister John Major and Labor Party leader Tony Blair for the debate when it is transmitted in Scotland.

The nationalist party had asked Scotland's highest court to rule that television companies would be breaching their duty of impartiality by excluding Salmond.

A Court of Sessions judge ruled

against the SNP, saying that broadcasters could use their own judgement about their programs.

Broadcasting of election campaigns is tightly controlled in Britain, with no paid commercials and the planned debate is widely seen as a key moment in the campaign.

The Liberal Democrats, Britain's third national party trailing far behind Labor and Major's Conservatives, have also threatened legal action if their leader, Paddy Ashdown, is not given a role in the head-to-head debates.

Both Major and Blair have agreed to the debates, but the format has yet to be finalized.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother

**ANN MARKUS (Kamin)**  
of Toronto, Canada

Ray and Elaine Markus  
Elliot and Sylvia Markus  
and all her loving grandchildren  
and great-grandchildren

To mark the shloshim of

**JOSH LEIBOWITZ** ז"ל

a shiur will be given in his memory,  
on Sunday, March 30, 1997, at 7:30 p.m.,  
at Yakar, 10 Rehov Halamed Hei, Jerusalem.

The Family and Friends

On the shloshim of the late

**SARAH GREBENAU** ז"ל

we will meet at the main gate of the Holon Cemetery at  
4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 1997 (24 Adar II 5757)  
for the unveiling of the tombstone.

A memorial meeting will be held at the J.I.A. British Olim  
Society, 76 Ibn Gabirol, Tel Aviv at 6:30 p.m.

The family and friends

We will unveil the tombstone of our beloved  
**Rabbi Dr. MATTHEW KATZ** ז"ל  
on Thursday, April 3, 1997 (25 Adar II 5757) at the  
Sde Yehoshua Cemetery, Haifa at 4.30 p.m. (Oren Gate).

The Family

**MAGGY T.H.**  
(10.4.76 - 21.3.97)

Dear Janny and Sammy,  
Dear Jojo,

With love and in tears,  
we want to say that your sorrow is our sorrow.  
Our memory of Maggy will always stay sacred  
and we hope that our togetherness will  
give us strength.

The Khakshouri Family

There is so much to say but no words  
to express what I feel.  
You are in my heart, Maggy, my dear.

In deep love, Jennifer

Dearest Maggy,  
I will always think of you as "le petit soleil."  
Your gentle eyes and delicate smile will live on  
warming my heart forever.

Isaac

Your absence is impossible to overcome,  
yet we continue living and will  
never forget you, Maggy.

Sascha

Maggy,  
We miss you, yet we feel you with us more  
than ever before. We love you.

Tanja and Nina

With deep sorrow, I say good-bye to you,  
my beloved cousin,  
who will live on in my heart eternally.

Allon

Maggy, your smile  
will always be with me!

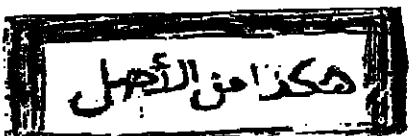
Nani

Beloved Maggy,  
I miss you with all my heart.

Mischa

The Sea, Our Passion  
yours the sun, mine the fish  
In love and hope

Pagan





## Tackling terror

**Ex-Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit and ex-CIA head James Woolsey assess options for combating terror, Steve Rodan reports**

Not long ago, Shabtai Shavit and James Woolsey headed two of the most prestigious spy agencies in the world. They were colleagues then; they are friends now. They visit each other's homes, meet at conferences and worry about Israel's intensifying struggle with Palestinian terrorism.

Woolsey, CIA director from 1993 to 1995, appears more at ease than the former Mossad chief in expressing his concern over the current Palestinian wave of terrorism that Israeli authorities say has been largely orchestrated by Yasser Arafat. "It's an extraordinary and tense situation," Woolsey says. "It's very worrisome for Israel and the United States. They're in this together. To a lot of terrorists, Israel is the small satan and we're the big satan."

Woolsey, an attorney by profession who served under several Democratic Party administrations, says he is convinced that Arafat signaled his approval of the current wave of Islamic terrorism and unrest. He dismisses the doubts expressed by US diplomats of the Israeli assertion that Arafat gave the Islamic terrorist opposition the "green light" to attack.

"I think it's a sterile dispute," Woolsey, who attended the inaugural conference of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, says. "There's a green light, but there's also a yellow light. All you have to do is surround yourself with 120 released Hamas prisoners and say 'won't somebody please help me in this difficult situation?' And that's plenty of yellow light [in order to operate]. I don't think Arafat had to give a green light."

Woolsey urges Israel and the US to cooperate to remove what he terms the "terrorist cap" from Arafat before final-status negotiations resume. "Israel has extraordinarily difficult negotiations coming up," he says. "There is no doubt that compromises have to be made. But I don't see how you can deal with Arafat under the threat of terrorism."

The former CIA director doesn't say so, but Woolsey's skepticism of Arafat runs deep within the US intelligence community and the Pentagon. Formally, President Bill Clinton's administration is committed to Arafat, but privately many US defense officials say the PLO leader will not abandon violence, and the challenge for the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be how to eliminate a terrorist infrastructure that has been established just minutes away from Israeli cities.

Admiral (ret.) Leighton Smith, who until several months ago held several key US Navy posts including commander of the

\$5,000-member US-led peace-keeping force in Bosnia, spent a week here meeting government officials and military leaders in a visit sponsored by the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. He says he sees similarities between the Balkans and Israel. The difference is that with all its problems, Bosnia is one contiguous territory while the Palestinian Authority rules areas that sandwich a narrow Israel.

"The problem here is that there is a terrorist problem within the boundaries of the area [Israel]," says Smith. "You've got terrorism all over the place. You can't tolerate terrorism as a means to drive a country to concede what it doesn't want to concede."

Yonah Alexander, a terrorist expert at George Washington University and a consultant to the US Defense Department, compares last week's bombing in Tel Aviv to that of New York City's World Trade Center in 1993. "It's a wake-up call," Alexander says. "If we don't respond to this, things will get worse."

For his part, Woolsey appears more cautious. He acknowledges that the US hopes that Arafat would end his career as a terrorist appear to be premature.

"It's hard to say now [whether Arafat is still a terrorist]," he says. "After all, people who were responsible for terrorism in this region were also later responsible for acts of great statesmanship in the world, like [the late Egyptian president Anwar] Sadat and [the late prime minister Menachem] Begin. But it is just completely unacceptable for Arafat to give the yellow light to terrorists and turn them loose every time there is a disagreement over a housing project or anything else."

Woolsey says the Clinton administration must make this clear to Arafat.

He also suggests that the White House tells Arafat that the Middle East peace process is not what US diplomats term a "slippery slope," in which negotiations and Israeli concessions eventually resume regardless of the violence. "What's required is clarity from my government," Woolsey says.

According to Woolsey, the key to fighting international terrorism is international cooperation. "You can never know enough about the groups planning attacks," he says. "There is a limit to what you can learn through your own means. Espionage and the sharing of intelligence with friendly countries is the only way you'll learn about terrorist plans and finances."

Should Israel strike Islamic terrorists at their bases in Gaza?

Woolsey doesn't sound positive. Although Netanyahu as opposition leader was an ardent support-



A bomb disposal expert examines the body of the suicide bomber who blew up Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe last Friday.

(Gideon Markovics)

er of the traditional Israeli policy of striking terrorists abroad, Woolsey doesn't believe that terrorists who are not directly supported by a government are deterred by the threat of retaliation.

**"Last week's bombing in Tel Aviv was a wake-up call. If we don't respond, things will get worse."**

— Yonah Alexander

"You have to be careful, in terms of retaliation, that you have the right country in their sights," Woolsey says. "There could be terrorist events that don't involve

state sponsorship at all."

SHABTAI SHAVIT, Mossad head from 1989 to 1996, begins his explanation of terrorism by drawing a map of Israel. He then takes a blue felt-tip pen and scribbles concentric circles in the middle where Judea and Samaria are located. "This area is fuzzy," he says. "There's no border. There's no clear delineation. What's taking place here is that our direct access to the territories is growing weaker. So you have to compensate for this."

"This is the biggest intelligence problem we have here. When it comes to political intelligence, whether on Palestinian strategy or negotiation positions, or what they think of the economy, this is easy to get. When you speak of specific intelligence, this is difficult."

When Shavit joined the Mossad in the early 1960s, Arafat was becoming prominent as the leader of the newly-established Fatah. From then until his retirement last year, Shavit's job was to track down the Palestinian revolutionary.

Is Arafat still a terrorist leader?

Shavit doesn't like the question, calling it political. "To depict Arafat as a terrorist is incorrect," he says. "If Arafat was a terrorist, he would not enter the peace process. Arafat is in a phase where he doesn't rule out terrorism in extreme situations. But to say Arafat is a terrorist through and through is a great exaggeration."

Shavit agrees with Woolsey that terrorists aren't easily deterred. Terrorism is a poor man's warfare and it requires little funding or support. "Arafat rose in 1965 and from the minute he appeared I was after him," Shavit says. "Did we stop him? He kept on operating. Sometimes we knocked him off balance. But we never managed to stop him. The case study used of a successful campaign against terrorism was the British in Burma. But could we obtain international support for the kinds of methods the British used? Would we get a national consensus for this?"

In the absence of PA cooperation, should Israel strike at

Islamic terrorists in Gaza?

Shavit becomes uneasy, but before long the man who headed what he says is the best group of spies in the world relents. "I can do all sorts of operations," he says. "If I am smart

**"To say Arafat is a terrorist through and through is a great exaggeration."**

— Shabtai Shavit

enough I can do it with deniability so that nobody knows it's me. The restraint is linked to political and strategic considerations. As long as you are in negotiations you are limited." Both Shavit and Woolsey are

asked the following: Can prolonged terrorism destabilize Israel?

They agree that Israel can brave a long period of tension as well as numerous terrorist attacks. "I don't see Israel becoming destabilized by this terrorist campaign," Woolsey says. "I see the commitment to the rule of law and democracy here as extremely strong. A great deal of stress can be placed on the US and Israel."

For his part, Shavit says Israelis will have to learn to live with the current tension. He foresees a long period of high alert in which "you can't lose your head or your strength."

But he distinguishes between the current tension and Israel's restraint in the face of continued terrorist attacks.

"The situation of prolonged terror could come to the breaking point whereby Israel can no longer tolerate this and will react with a force that could end the peace process. In that case, you switch priorities and say to hell with the whole process."

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# Land Day 1997: Bracing for the worst

### For the first time in years, Israeli Arabs have called a general strike for Land Day this Sunday. Will tensions explode? Abraham Rabinovich reports

The annual manifestation of mild schizophrenia known as Land Day, when Israeli Arabs give expression to their sense of dual identity, has in recent years taken on a relatively benign, almost picnic-like, flavor in marked contrast with its earlier stridency. However, there will be no mistaking this year's Land Day celebrations on Sunday for a St. Patrick's Day parade. "I'm afraid the ground is ripe for an explosion," says Loufi Mashour, editor of the Nazareth newspaper *As-Sennara*.

The combination of factors that seem likely to return Israeli Arabs and Jews to an angry confrontational mode include the election last year of a government perceived by Israeli Arabs as insensitive to their needs, the apparent

grounding of the peace process and the beginning of construction at Har Homa.

For the first time in years, the organizers of Land Day - a committee made up of Arab local council heads, Arab Knesset members and Arab Histadrut officials - have called a general strike in the Arab sector for Land Day as their way of slamming the table for attention.

"There will be no violence unless there is provocation from the army or police," says MK Abdul Malik Dahamshe of the Democratic Arab Party. Mashour, however, says that violence might come if there are reports of serious injuries or deaths among West Bank Palestinians, who are expected to clash with troops in their own militant version of Land

Day celebrations.

Land Day has its origins in the fatal clash 21 years ago between troops and Arabs protesting the expropriation of land in Galilee. Six Arabs were killed and many wounded. On every anniversary since then, Israeli Arabs have marked the event with rallies which not only commemorate the dead but are an opportunity to vent current grievances. The anniversary has come to be marked as well by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in refugee camps in the Arab world beyond, in a manifestation of national bonding.

The central rally this year will be in the Beduin settlement of Abu Tul in the Negev where Arabs will assemble from all over the country to call attention to the displacement of Beduin from traditional grazing grounds. Rallies, tree plantings and marches will be held in Galilee and the Triangle



A turbulent Land Day in Taiba.

(Dany Lev/PPA)

and a rally is to be held in Jaffa as well. "We will be demonstrating against expropriation of Arab land and for increased budgets and

equality," says Nazareth Mayor Ramzi Gerasi. "But we will also be demonstrating against the Har Homa project and the danger we see to the peace process." The construction at Har Homa, which has placed Jerusalem on the public agenda, has already brought demonstrations by Israel's Islamic movement and may prove a combustible element on Sunday.

Dr. Eli Rekhess of Tel Aviv University said this week that the institutionalization of Land Day by Israel's Arabs after the 1976

shootings was a declaration of assertiveness on the part of a minority which had been passive during the first decades of the state and lived under military government until 1966. "It was a signal from the Arab population to the government that we had entered a new era," said Rekhess, who heads a program on Arab politics sponsored by the Adenauer Foundation. "They were saying 'You can no longer handle us the same way. There is a new leadership and we will fight back.'"

The Jewish population and the government regarded these manifestations of Arab nationalism with extreme suspicion, at least in the early years, but Rekhess notes that the Arab leadership has been careful to shun any hint of secessionist or anti-state tendencies. "On the contrary," he says, "they emphasize that what they are doing is within the context of being part of Israeli society."

Says Mayor Gerasi: "The government has to distinguish between protests against the state and protests against the state's policy. We are protesting only against policies."

DUALISM - THE tension involved in being both Israeli and Palestinian - has been a central feature of Land Day as it is of the Israeli Arab community itself. By vigorously protesting government policies, is the Arab community setting itself apart from the rest of Israeli society and opening itself to suspicions of being a potential fifth column, or is it in fact demonstrating how integral a part of that society it is by feeling free enough to protest and hopeful enough that protest will bring change?

Continued on Page 20

## To: The Prime Minister of Israel and the Government Har Homa - A Last Minute Plea.

On January 26, 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Binyamin Netanyahu, wrote us stating: "In reaching a decision on the construction of the new Har Homa neighborhood, all the implications and circumstances will be taken into account." An interim balance sheet can now be drawn up:

- On the political level:
  - 14 countries have twice condemned Israel in the UN Security Council.
  - 130 countries have condemned Israel in the UN General Assembly.
  - The Islamic Convention has condemned Israel.
  - It is expected that the Arab League will condemn Israel.
  - It is expected that the Jerusalem Conference headed by King Hassan will condemn Israel.
  - It is expected that Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and other countries will break off diplomatic relations with Israel, and that Israel will be isolated worldwide.
  - Since the Creation, "Har Homa" has never been part of the city of Jerusalem.
  - The status of East Jerusalem is considered in the Camp David Agreement.
  - The Security Council and the UN General Assembly have passed resolutions, overruling the acts of expropriation in East Jerusalem (e.g., Resolution 267).
  - The Oslo Agreement contains a provision that the status of East Jerusalem will be determined in the permanent-settlement negotiations with the Palestinians.
  - In March 1977, the government made a decision not to expropriate land.
  - In May 1995, the government made a decision not to expropriate land.
  - The "Har Homa" scheme will necessitate further expropriation of Arab land.
- On the security level:
  - Even before construction starts, the site is being guarded by 2,000 members of the police and the army.
  - A report produced by Israel's security services states that there are strong grounds for expecting riots and terrorist incidents, if the government builds this neighborhood. This report to the government has been described by the Minister of Justice as shocking.
- On the economic level:
  - An \$800 million debit for compensation, and the construction of infrastructure and public buildings.
  - \$800 million of the government investments will be deducted from the US guarantees.
  - A \$400 million loss, if the offer of the land owners to transfer all profits from the project to a fund for advancing peace in the Middle East and supporting humanitarian causes, is rejected.
  - Amounts corresponding to the factors noted in Para. 4, Para. 6 (c), (d) and Para. 10 must be added to the above.
  - In addition, there will be a negative effect on tourism.
- On the planning level:
  - Our company's scheme to build apartments designed for the handicapped has been rejected.
  - Our company's scheme, to entirely eliminate road accidents in the neighborhood has been rejected.
  - Approval has been given to the government plan. According to this plan, sewage produced by the neighborhood's population of 35,000 will be pumped up 250 m by three pumps, one of which will be located in the schools and kindergartens area. A stroke of genius! Where are the environmentalists?
  - The approved government scheme will necessitate further expropriation of Arab land.
  - The government's \$1,500 billion project plan was approved by three members of the committee in quarter of an hour, this involving illegal acts (brought out in Supreme Court Case 6517/96). They did not consider the alternative plan submitted.
- An expert has given the approved government plan a rating of 20%, in comparison to the plan of our company. Our plan can be seen at the Internet address: WWW.HARHOMA.COM.
- On the ethical level:
  - This action is contrary to Jewish ethics, as exemplified in the story of "Neboth's vineyard" (Kings I: 21).
  - While allocating state land to kibbutzim and moshavim, the government is here refusing to allow land owners to develop their own land.
  - While giving entrepreneurs the right to acquire state land and draw up plans for its utilization, the government prevents land owners building on their land, in accordance with completed plans.
  - While nationalizing the "Har Homa" area, the government is privatizing real estate companies it owns.
  - While encouraging capital investment, the government is nationalizing a life-time project. Who will invest in a country, in which the government nationalizes a life-time project, in order to give it to others, after work has been invested in it over a period of 25 years?
  - While allowing construction on 13 dunams of occupied land in Ras el Amud, on the grounds that it is private land, the government is preventing construction on 1,500 dunams of private land on "Har Homa".
  - In Israel, property is being confiscated, while in Eastern Europe, property confiscated before WWII is now being returned.
- On the legal and constitutional level:
  - It is contrary to Para. 3 in the basic law: Rights and Freedom of Man.
- In Supreme Court Case 3958/92, it was laid down that:
 

"In considering the petitioner's request to revoke the expropriation, the Minister of Finance must give weight to the fact that we are concerned with prejudicing a right associated with the property, and with 'respecting this right.' This means that, if it is proved that it is possible to build the residential neighborhood - a public need - without expropriation, it would be desirable to revoke the expropriation, even if, at the time the minister made his decision, he thought otherwise."
- In Case 3958/92, the Supreme Court decided that, under certain conditions, the expropriation of Har Homa would be invalidated. Our company agrees to comply with these conditions. Binyamin Ben Eliezer, who was then the Minister of Construction and Housing, found a pretext to ignore the Supreme Court's ruling that the owners could build luxury apartments, and without the minister bothering to look at our company's plans.
- The government has caused the agreement, signed between our company and the Jerusalem Development Authority to build the neighborhood, to be violated.
- On the correct procedure level:
  - The government master plan, was approved, at a time when a court order forbidding this act was in effect (see Supreme Court Case 6517/96).
  - Agreements have been signed with architects, engineers and surveyors, without publishing public tenders.
  - An agreement has been signed with an earth-work contractor, without publishing a public tender.
  - The haradim have already started to sell apartments on "Har Homa". The circumstances in which the neighborhood was promised to them, and how this was done before the court cases were completed, are yet to be revealed.
- On the Israeli public opinion level:
  - An opinion poll conducted by Dr. Rachel Yisraeli of Machon Michshuv, on February 22, 1997, found that 92% of Jewish adults in Israel consider that the government should permit the private owners to undertake the building.
- On the level of human feelings:
  - An attempt has been made to prevent us creating a memorial to a woman soldier who was killed in a road accident, while on duty in the IDF. In the drawing up of our plan for the neighborhood, the utmost care was taken to ensure the greatest possible road safety, as noted in Para 4 (b). A fund in her memory was also to be set up - see Para 3 (c).
- To date, the government has agreed to:
  - Allow the operation of the Dahanya airfield
  - Hand over more areas in Region C
  - Invest \$60 million in infrastructure in East Jerusalem
  - The building of 400 apartments in Zur Bahar
  - The building of 3,000 apartments for Arabs in other areas of East Jerusalem
  - Create a "Har Homa B" neighborhood for Arabs, which will necessitate the expropriation of further land areas from the Arabs. Another stroke of genius!
- In conclusion:
  - It is clear that, when the decision to build a new neighborhood on expropriated land on "Har Homa" was made, ALL the implications and circumstances were NOT taken into account. In particular and obviously, not those detailed above.
  - The question is not "to build or not to build". The question is: Should the owners build, or should the government take the land from the owners, and give it to others? Government instituted construction on "Har Homa" does not contribute anything to Israel's position in East Jerusalem - in fact, the contrary is the case.
  - The government has done practically everything to placate the Palestinians, except the correct thing: make a decision to cancel the expropriation on "Har Homa", remove its security forces, to stop the emergency deployment of troops, stop wasting public money, and allow the owners - Jews and Arabs - to build on their land.
  - The security services have given their opinion on what will happen if construction is started on "Har Homa". Not one minister has checked it out: What would happen, if the owners - Jews and Arabs - build, with the accord of the Palestinians and in line with world opinion?

The prime minister and the ministers of the government will not, at some future date, be able to come out of this matter with clean hands, because not one of them has asked the security services the right question, and has not checked out the alternative that the owners - Jews and Arabs - build the neighborhood.
- This is a life-time project which the government is attempting to quash, with no justification. The attitude of the prime minister should be exactly the same as it would be, were someone attempting to destroy a memorial project for Yoni Netanyahu.
- If the neighborhood is built by the owners, it will restore respect for the right of ownership, produce savings in the national budget, improve Israel's image in the world, and promote economic prosperity, peace and security.
- If this neighborhood is built on expropriated land, in accordance with the government plan, despite all the disadvantages detailed above, it will impose penance on many generations, the sad fact being recorded in history that it was done when the premiership was held by Binyamin Netanyahu, an architect by profession, and graduate of business affairs.

We therefore address this impassioned, last-minute plea to the prime minister and the ministers, to take ALL the implications and circumstances into account, in accordance with human rights, and statehood principles.

May Mount "Har Homa" become the "Mount of Peace"!

With respect,  
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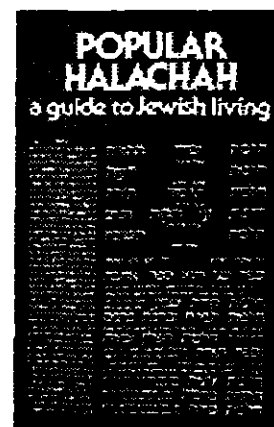
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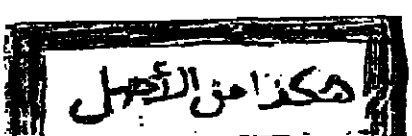
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# Is Labor ready to snap?

Shimon Peres's desire to continue his 20-year hegemony over Labor's party machine may drive the party to the breaking point, Sarah Honig writes

Shimon Peres has the reputation of almost sprightly striding out first through the revolving door, even if he entered it behind someone else.

This is what renders everyone around him in the Labor Party so jumpy and jittery. Labor's already twitchy nerves were further agitated when Peres was nominated for president (only party president for now) this week and not for the first time.

The suggestion first cropped up soon after Peres lost last year's election and it keeps reappearing with impressive regularity.

That the notion of creating a new and very undefined role for Peres persists, and that it stirs great controversy and raw emotion, indicates a great deal about the state of Labor these days. Many in the party-like Labor to a spring which has been tightly pulled back and which everyone is now expecting to snap forcefully, though no one knows how and when - except that it will surely happen before June 3.

It is on that date the party is slated to elect its new chairman - the one who will replace Peres and who will be Labor's next candidate for prime minister. It will be then that the 20-year Peres hegemony over the Labor machine (even during the tenure of the late Yitzhak Rabin as prime minister) will in theory be over.

The trouble is that no one in the party - least of all Peres's opponents - believes that he is ready or willing to go. Despite his advancing years he is judged as still politically vigorous, and as highly unlikely to passively yield the helm and fade away with resignation.



Peres: Unlikely to yield the top spot.

(Alan Row/Israel Sun)

The anticipation for what Peres may pull out of his already mythically proportioned bag of tricks is severely fraying political nerves on both sides of the great Labor divide. Suspicions and conspiracy theories abound, evidence of scheming and intrigue are detected everywhere and sly Byzantine maneuvers are ascribed to every utterance or development - even if it doesn't originate from within Labor.

It was instructive to watch how Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal to accelerate the Oslo process and cut to the final-status negotiations was greeted in Labor. Its politicians were clearly caught off guard and had a hard time deciding about the merits or drawbacks of the proposal. But it instantly set off loud alarm bells amongst the highly strung supporters of Ehud Barak, the man seen as most likely to take Peres's

place in June. Many around Barak claimed to have discovered Peres's fingerprints on the Netanyahu proposal. They lost no time to whisper in reporters' ears that Peres must be involved because the maneuver is so sophisticated and ingenious - not in the realm of Israel's dealings with the Arabs but in the party political arena, where it could make a national unity government much more difficult to oppose.

In the Barak camp it is regarded as axiomatic that Peres will stop at nothing to get the party into the government before the June deadline so he can come in as the senior Labor cabinet minister and remain the top Labor man in Netanyahu's cabinet until the year 2000, regardless of who is elected to the Labor leadership slot.

To prove the existence of a Peres-Netanyahu collusion, Barak's boosters unhesitatingly point to the meeting between the two a fortnight prior to Netanyahu's proposal. Last Sunday's phone conversation between the two only fanned the flames. The version that Netanyahu merely briefed Peres on developments after the Tel Aviv cafe bombing is roundly rejected. The two, it is asserted, talk way too much and are almost chummy. Barak's allies claim that Rabin and Peres certainly did not treat Netanyahu so considerately when he was in the opposition, and no prime minister maintained such continuous contact with the opposition chief as Netanyahu does with Peres.

And if that is not airtight enough, they

Continued on Page 20

# No time for unity

In an interview with Michal Yudelman, Ehud Barak dismisses a national unity government and calls for renewal of talks with Yasser Arafat

Ehud Barak was on the Negev campaign trail when word reached him on Wednesday that Leah Rabin had endorsed his bid for Labor's leadership.

The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, said his widow, saw Barak as his successor.

Barak could not have hoped for a better gift to establish himself as the heir of Labor's loved and admired former leader.

Who would have believed him if he had said it himself? It might even have been dismissed as the puff of another politician with delusions of grandeur.

Barak was "recruited" into Labor by the peace team of Rabin and then-foreign minister Shimon Peres. They were concerned about the future leadership of the party and could see no outstretched younger-generation hand worthy of grasping the Labor baton.

Rabin and Peres once told Giora Einy, their confidant, they had found the man most suited to carry the torch - Ehud Barak, just out of the post of IDF chief of staff.

"Rabin discussed it with Peres and myself," recalls Einy, who did not know Barak personally before then. "They were looking for leadership potential and brought him on board to strengthen the government and the party. I was given the task of being liaison between Barak and the party leadership."

Barak also remembers the day he received a call from the prime minister. "Yitzhak called me after I had finished my term as chief of staff. He said he had spoken about it to Shimon, and that I should join the cabinet and its leading team. He talked about needing a reserve unit to hand the baton to when the time comes."



Barak: Waiting for the baton.

(Brian Hemler)

After Labor lost the elections and was exiled to the opposition, Barak lost no time in grooming himself for party leadership. His calculated military-style offensive to take the party by storm and his naked ambition quickly earned him the unflattering adjective of "Bibi-compatible." But the tactics have proved themselves necessary and effective for a Labor movement shattered by the twin blows of assassination and electoral rejection.

Public opinion polls indicate he is by far the favorite Labor leadership candidate and as a pollster's election candidate he surges ahead of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Now, as the national unity balloon rises higher with more hot air being pumped into it, Barak is leading the opposition charge to bring it down. It offends him to see Labor crawl towards

elections. If he got defense, his objections would fade away, suggest Peres's supporters.

Not so, says Barak. Even if offered the defense ministry he would oppose a unity government.

"It's not just that the time isn't right" he said. "I don't think the time will ever be right to join this government of Gotham, with its amateurs and schemers, its scandals and blunders. There's only one thing to do with a government like this. Replace it!"

Barak is not, in any case, convinced the issue of a national unity government is even on the agenda. "It's all talk," he said. "It's not realistic and, anyway, nobody has offered it. Peres himself admits it's imaginary."

Barak was more interested in blasting

Continued on Page 20

The Jerusalem Post... Kings was a declaration... 1966. "It was a... said Rabin... a program on Arab... honored by the... foundation. "They were... can no longer handle... way. There is a new... and we will fight back... the Jewish population... government regarded these... nations of Arab national... extreme suspicion, at least... at the Arab leadership has... to shun any hint of... or anti-state tendencies... In the contrary," he says... emphasize that what the... is within the... Says Mayor Gerasi: "The... ment has to distinguish... ad protests against the... We are protesting only... change."

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# Surrendering myths

### Germans have taken to the streets over an exhibit that portrays the "ordinary German soldier" as a willing executioner, Marilyn Henry reports from Munich

The line starts forming in the Munich courtyard around 9 each morning. It expands and contracts, but never quite disappears until late afternoon. By then, closing time, 2,000 visitors will have viewed the provocative exhibit that is challenging Germany's conception of its "ordinary soldiers" during World War II.

The private exhibit on the Nazi-era German army, the Wehrmacht, has toured a dozen cities in Germany and Austria in the last two years. But when it opened last month in Munich, the Bavarian city that in 1935 Hitler dubbed the "capital of the movement," sparks began to fly.

Peter Gauweiler, leader of the Christian Socialist Union, assailed Munich's official sponsorship of the exhibit, which he called an affront to the army. Gauweiler used language that resonated with neo-Nazis. And they turned out by the thousands on March 1, pumped up by messages on the Internet, then bused from cities in the former East Germany, to stage a street protest against the exhibit. Thousands more — locals from Munich — congregated on the central Marienplatz to hold the neo-Nazis at bay.

Rachel Salamander is offended by Gauweiler's opposition to the exhibit. "It is part of the Auschwitz denial — Wehrmacht denial," says Salamander, the owner of the Jewish bookstores, Literatur Zum Judentum, in Munich, Berlin and Vienna.

The exhibit — called "Extirpation War: Crimes of the Wehrmacht, 1941-44" — simply and starkly says it is time to abandon the "lie" of the German army. "In 1945, barely after the defeat of Nazi Germany, the generals began the fabrication of a legend — the legend of the 'clean army,'" the opening panel at the exhibit states. According to this legend, soldiers were not executioners. They "fulfilled their military duties with decency and dignity," and were separate from the Nazi regime.

"In 1995, it is time to say good-bye to that lie," the panel says. "From 1941 to 1944, the German Army in the Balkans and the Soviet Union conducted not a 'normal' war, but a war of destruction against Jews, prisoners of war and civilians that claimed millions of victims."

The queues show that the Germans clearly have an appetite for this material, but it is not easy to digest.

"NOBODY DENIES that war crimes were committed by members of the Wehrmacht," says Hans Podiuk, town council member in Munich and chairman of its CSU faction. "But the exhibit and the books [produced in conjunction with it] have a tendency to declare the Wehrmacht in general as a criminal organization and insult every member of the Wehrmacht."

The exhibit makes a judgment that does not show the historical reality, he said in an interview, occasionally pulling out books from the exhibit, with the offending passages highlighted with neon-pink marker, to prove his point. "Of course, crimes were committed by the SS and Gestapo, but there were millions of soldiers who were drafted, who were not enthusiastic and committed no crimes," he says. Besides, he says, the Nuremberg trials "cleared" the Wehrmacht.

Podiuk says he would not have attempted to prevent the exhibit from being shown at another site, but he took exception to the fact that it was official-

ly sponsored by the Munich city government, opened by city officials and staged in the neo-Gothic municipal building, the Rathaus.

From his second-floor office at the Rathaus, Podiuk looked down on the line of people waiting to enter the exhibit. "It is like that every day," he says, motioning toward the queue. "I can hear them arguing in line, through the window." He laughed at the suggestion that perhaps he was responsible for the exhibit's popularity, because the CSU's opposition had aroused the intense interest. In other cities, the exhibit had seen less than half the visitors who have come each day to the Rathaus show. "You're right. I initiated a discussion," says Podiuk. But he also insisted that his stance was "moderate." And he has a pedigree that discourages people from simply dismissing him as right wing: Podiuk's father, a Ukrainian, was imprisoned in Dachau — some 20 kilometers from his office in the Rathaus — for 1 1/2 years.

Podiuk himself acknowledges that, in his opposition, he is in the company of neo-Nazis. "We don't agree with the far right. That image is created by political adversaries," he says, adding, "It is hard for us to correct."

ONE OF the grievances of the exhibit's supporters is that the stock phrases of the far right have found their way into statements made by mainstream parties. Gauweiler's CSU is the sister party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, which is nationwide except in Bavaria. After the rival demonstrations in Munich, Kohl's coalition said it did not want the parliament to host the exhibition.

"Gauweiler took an extreme view and then neo-Nazis found a point of identification with the establishment," says Jurgen Zarusky, a historian at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich.

The CSU leader "broke a certain taboo," Salamander says, adding that she feared that Gauweiler's sentiments may encourage others to voice similar views. "If a democratic party can say these things, anyone can say them," says Salamander, a prominent member of Munich's Jewish community. With 6,000 members, Munich's is the third-largest Jewish community in Germany.

The Wehrmacht exhibit is sponsored by a foundation created by philanthropist Jan Phillip Reemtsma, whose family made its fortune selling tobacco, including to the German army. Gauweiler reportedly once suggested that Reemtsma could better use his wealth on an exhibit showing the victims of tobacco. There are, of



After the defeat of Nazi Germany, the generals began the fabrication of the legend of 'the clean army,' states the exhibit.

course, different victims shown. "The Wehrmacht was responsible for the deaths of up to 1.5 million Jews, 3.3 million prisoners of war and 5 million to 7 million [non-Jewish] civilians who all died as noncombatants," the exhibit's curator, Hannes Heer, told *Der Spiegel* magazine.

Relying heavily on text and small snapshots — unlike the giant enlarge-

ments common in exhibitions — the exhibit shows the war against the partisans in Serbia, the German army advancing toward Stalingrad and the occupation of Belarus.

The photos from Belarus are especially traumatic: bodies in pits, wizened men struggling with manual labor, and the Jews' yellow stars.

In Nazi Germany, when it came to the yellow stars, the Reich had its inevitable rules, which governed the size of the star, the cloth, and whether it was to be worn on the lapel or on an armband. In Minsk, though, the Wehrmacht and SS improvised. And it is reflected in the stars. In one haunting photograph, women are wearing monstrous yellow stars on the backs of their jackets. The stars look like targets for shooting practice.

There also are copies of letters sent home from the front, and they are chilling. "So far we have sent about 1,000 Jews to the hereafter. But that's still too few," a soldier identified as Franz wrote on July 7, 1941.

THE FACTS of the exhibit are not new. "What is new are the photos, taken by the soldiers themselves, showing they had no conscience," says Florian Sattler, the spokesman for the city.

Sattler's office at the Rathaus is down the hall from Podiuk's, but the two find little common ground. Sattler is tickled by official sponsorship of the event.

The majority of German adults drew the wrong interpretation of the Nuremberg tribunal, he says. Nuremberg found that the SS and the Gestapo were criminal organizations. By definition, though, the army was not, because military service there was compulsory. "Never did Nuremberg say that the army did not do criminal acts, but the German courts didn't prosecute such acts," Sattler says.

"The society of the 1950s was not prepared to try soldiers," he says. "Now you have to — our generation has to — or the next generation will reproach us."

Like Podiuk, he seems awed by the lines in the courtyard. "People stand there for hours and hours and talk about the experience of the war," he says. "Old soldiers, for 45, 48 years, they didn't speak. Now they can talk."

Or, now they can argue. Many veterans oppose the exhibit. Some say the documents and photos are fakes. Others say they are being libeled. Many stand in Marienplatz, but cannot be convinced to enter the Rathaus to view the exhibit, organizers say. Instead, they engage other visitors in conversation or confrontation. Little circles, of young and old, form throughout the day. Their moods can be gauged from a distance: the angry, old vet who jabs the air with his finger, the young woman who covers her face with her hands.

"It is not difficult to judge Himmler and Heydrich, but personal responsibility?" asks Zarusky, the historian. "This brings the Nazi reality close to the people and raises questions about the responsibility of ordinary people in the Third Reich." As a historical work, the exhibit is problematic because it has no context and does

not show the development of the Wehrmacht, Zarusky says. But it also shows that the army was, in fact, integrated into the "annihilation" program. "It is historically correct. It shows a certain very depressing and very important aspect of our history," he says. "Even the veterans want to know what happened."

THE EXHIBIT is, in the words of Franz Müller, a "positive provocation." Müller is one of the survivors of the White Rose, a group of Munich university students whose leaflets were the first act of resistance to Hitler. Its young leaders were guillotined for challenging the Reich.

Müller does not indict the entire Wehrmacht: "There were many [soldiers] who were not guilty. The big majority didn't hurt anyone." Nonetheless, that does not relieve them of responsibility, says Müller, who was jailed by the Reich and liberated by the Allies. Although he does not believe in collective guilt, Müller has strong ideas about "majority guilt."

"It is the guilt of different levels of an enormous number of people — not only in Germany, but in France, Poland," he says. "I am convinced that in Germany we had majority guilt."

"A man says, 'I didn't see.' Well, you should have seen," says Müller. "He closed his eyes, closed his heart, closed his ears."

In Bonn, the exhibit prompted an emotional debate in the parliament recently in which some officials cried as they told their families' tales and wrestled with their personal demons.

"Even 52 years after the end of World War II, it is still not easy to speak about the role of the Wehrmacht," Defense Minister Volker Ruehe told Reuters.

"The experiences of the Wehrmacht soldier are the experiences of our father's generation. Its effects are still felt in many families." Some of those effects may have been exacerbated by the extraordinary popularity in the last year of US historian Daniel Goldhagen's book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, which also looks at the atrocities committed by "ordinary" Germans.

"People are moved by the horrible things that happened, but nobody wants to be responsible for it," says a German neurologist standing in a slow-moving line to enter the exhibit in Munich.

There are ample incongruities at the Rathaus, which is within easy walking distance of Odeonsplatz, the open-air plaza that was the site of Hitler's putsch. The banner advertising the Wehrmacht exhibit hangs near a renowned Glockenspiel, whose charming carillon chimes several times a day, while whimsical figurines do the "barrel-makers' dance" or "fight" a medieval tournament.

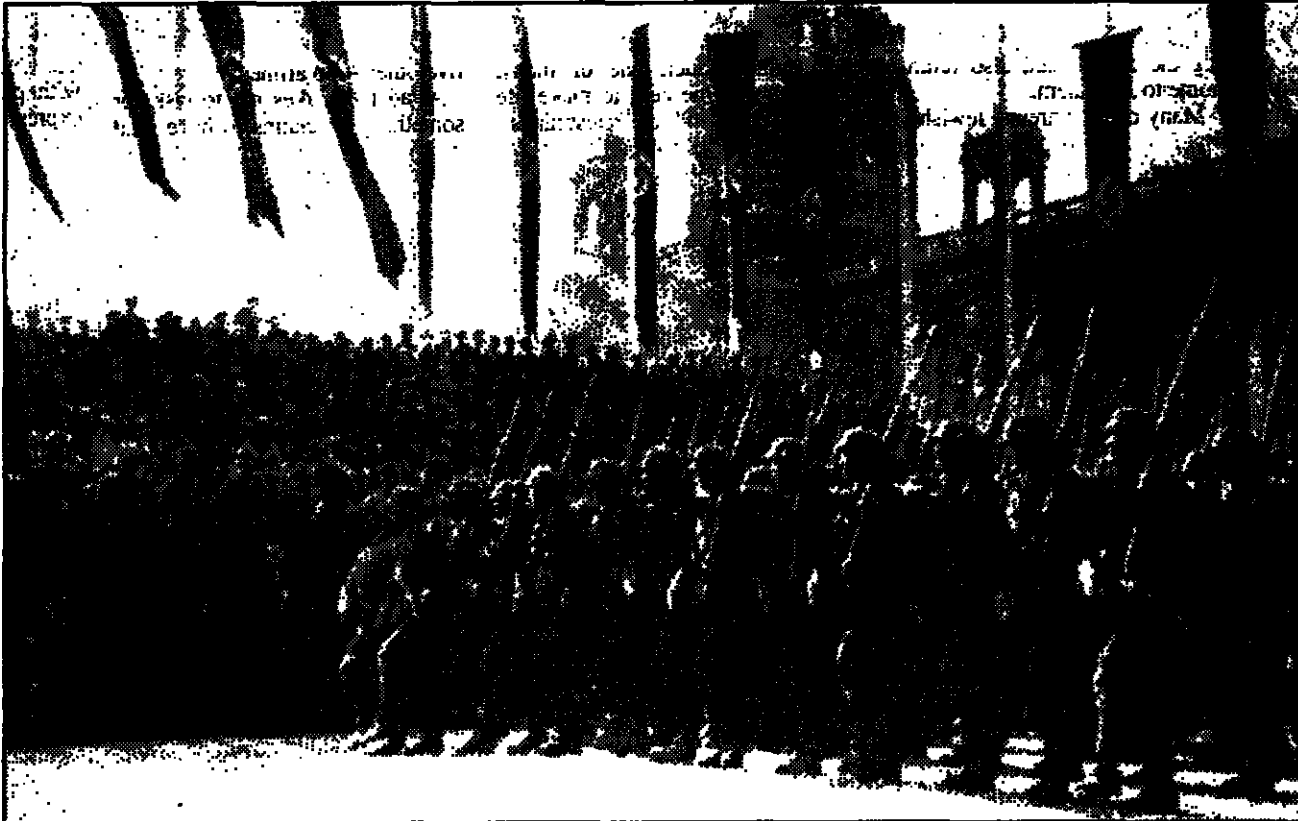
Visitors pass under an arch where the stone is inscribed: "To the members of the US Army who freed Munich from the National Socialist terror regime on 30 April 1945." But this is in the city where the Nazi Party was launched in 1920.

MUNICH TURNED back the neo-Nazis on March 1. Some 5,000 right-wing demonstrators were unable to cross Marienplatz and reach the Rathaus. The exhibit's supporters are proud that the 50 busloads of demonstrators were not local. They were blocked by an estimated 8,000 rival demonstrators, who shouted, "Nazis, out!"

There is a positive lesson here, some say proudly.

"I think what happened in Munich was valuable," says Zarusky. "People had seen the faces of neo-Nazis and heard the slogans and were shocked by it."

"This was a big success for democracy in Munich," Sattler says. "The protest against the neo-Nazis was a strong sign of what the majority in Munich thinks."



The Wehrmacht was responsible for the deaths of up to 1.5 million Jews, 3.3 million prisoners of war, and over 5 million civilians who all died as noncombatants, says curator Hannes Heer. (Austrian Historical Photo Archive)

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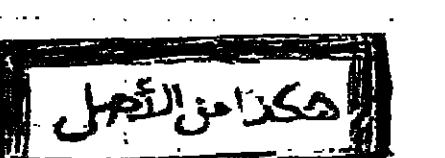
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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

A Jewish triple-X movie, goes the cliché, would consist of 50 minutes of begging, five of sex, and an hour of guilt.

So do Israeli national-unity governments. Yet unlike pornography, the efforts currently well under way to establish a broad-based government need not embarrass those involved in them.

A brief glimpse at the personal side of this rapidly unfolding saga already reveals much evidence in favor of a broad government. After all, anything proposed by Dan Meridor and opposed by Yehoshua Matza should generally be supported, but even more so when the latter's stance stems from his unabashedly selfish desire to retain his hard-won, but little deserved, ministerial status, which in a Netanyahu-Peres cabinet he stands to lose due to overcrowdedness.

Matza - a small-time politician who, other than heckle doves and fawn over Netanyahu, has yet to leave an imprint on our public life - should realize that too many sensible people lament the circumstances which allow people of his stature to become ministers in the first place.

The same goes for Ehud Barak who, though far more gifted than Matza, nevertheless allows personal expediency to dictate his attitude toward a national issue; with Peres in the government - one can almost hear the retired general muttering to himself - I am exposing my flanks to sud-

den attack by this dependable beast who isn't irreversibly dead until publicly buried. Not to mention Yitzhak Mordechai, who - though having energetically job-hunted at Labor headquarters as recently as last year - now says that the Likud should never contemplate forfeiting the defense portfolio.

Well, these and the rest of national unity's high-minded opponents should realize that with all due respect to their personal priorities, there is also a country to run, and this country has now arrived at a juncture which begs for political consolidation.

To be sure, Israel's extensive experience with national-unity governments - which have led this country for more than a fifth of its history - has always been dominated by bickering, intrigue and backstabbing.

In May '67, when national unity was first concocted, the public saw in it a brilliant move aimed at enhancing Israel's clout as it braced for a cataclysmic clash with the Arab armies which had mobilized to the south, north and east.

Yet in reality it was a ploy, master-minded by Shimon Peres, who shrewdly detected a golden opportunity to pluck the Rafi faction from its dreary life in opposition, and while at it weaken its nemesis, prime minister Levi Eshkol, by snatching from his bosom the Defense Ministry and placing it instead in Moshe Dayan's. To achieve that goal, Peres managed to mobilize the National Religious Party and Menachem Begin (who proposed returning to the helm 81-year-old David Ben-Gurion) whose combined siege was too much for Eshkol to resist.

Still, even if the cause of that move was prosaic, the fact is that it almost instantaneously reversed the public's pervasive pessimism, thus lending a much-needed psychological boost to the subsequent military victory.

Seventeen years later, when Peres led Yitzhak Shamir into a national-unity cabinet, their reasons once again were not necessarily noble, but rather a sober analysis of the deadlock imposed on them by an incon-

clusive election. However, that government's achievements - a generally smooth defeat of hyper-inflation and a swift retreat from central Lebanon - were more than positive from a national perspective.

Then, of course, there is the precedent of 1988, when Peres did not want a national-unity government, but was forced to join one by Shamir, who did not want a powerful opposition, and Yitzhak Rabin, who dreaded the thought of forfeiting the defense portfolio.

Today, too, Peres's battle is evidently not only about national direction, but also about his own survival. And yet, beyond the personal, partisan, and otherwise dubious small-political considerations which dominate Peres's record of three decades in doing and undoing national-unity governments, lurks the insight of a visionary statesman who knows when broad-based cabinets are a viable option.

THE FORMULA is very simple: When Israel's dilemmas are tactical, national unity works, and when our dilemmas are strategic, the parties fight it out, as they should.

In 1967 war was imperative, since it was imposed on us from outside with Egypt's closure of the Tiran Straits, and in 1984 hyper-inflation had to be beaten, lest the Zionist enterprise be sent into receivership. That's when national unity not only worked, but in fact was indispensable.

Since the public was demanded to sacrifice - in '84 financial assets and in '67 human lives - it had to feel that the politicians were also relinquishing some of what was dear to them, namely exclusivity in power. And since in both cases the question was not whether, but how, to wage battle, such an arrangement was feasible.

Conversely, by the second half the 1980s Likud and Labor had really arrived at an ideological impasse. Peres, having concluded - well before the outbreak of the intifada - that ruling over two million Palestinians is a recipe for disaster, and having realized

that the Iran-Iraq war was momentarily diverting the world's attention from the Arab-Israeli conflict, sought an arrangement which would in some way return Jordan to the West Bank and Gaza.

The Likud preferred to delude itself that occupation, and the Iran-Iraq war, should and could last forever. In such a setting national unity was impossible.

Today, considering that the Likud has itself led the retreat from Hebron, and that even Ariel Sharon admits that the emergence of a Palestinian state is only a question of time, and with even Yossi Beilin saying most Jewish settlements should stay put in a final arrangement, and since even Yossi Sarid says Jerusalem should remain undivided, it follows that much of yesterday's bitter controversies are behind us.

Indeed, having limped its way across the Oslo Rubicon, albeit over Yitzhak Rabin's dead body and amid a cacophonous chorus of assorted Rehavam Ze'evi and Elyakim Ha'etzni, the gypsy bandwagon called Israeli politics can no longer bicker over whether to negotiate a peace-for-territories deal with the Palestinians; the question has been reduced to how to go about doing this while retaining a maximum of national assets. In other words, we are back at the '67-'84 configuration.

The challenge ahead is clear, and we simply can't afford to meet it while deeply divided. Paradoxically, the Likud can strike peace deals at no political cost, but when it comes to flexing muscles, we need Labor. And the way Yasser Arafat has been behaving recently, there might yet be occasional need in a Labor-led defense establishment attacking, say, a Hamas hornet's nest somewhere in Gaza.

And since this is also how the architect of those successful national-unity governments - Shimon Peres - sees today's political situation, there is a good chance that later this year we'll finally have a few more relatively seasoned, sober and experienced leaders flanking Binyamin Netanyahu.

# When unity works

# Dry Bones



## FUNDS



By BEVERLEE BLACK

I never really knew what the saying, "it is better to give than to receive" really meant until I took on the job of director of The Jerusalem Post Funds.

I have just received a beautiful illustrated thank-you album from the children of the Risk Project, Natasha, for the Ethiopian Family and Child in Israel. Accompanied with photos of the children, they express their thanks for the presents we sent them in a beautiful English poem, two verses of which go...

The dolls we rock, and dress and comfort and carry on our backs, around the many puzzles we gather in large packs.

So with a heartfelt thank you, and many Todot Rabbot, we send you a Bracha: Sheitzku Laminivot!

I thought I would share this poem with you as the thank-you should really be for you, our generous readers, who year in year out, for nearly 50 years, have been helping those less fortunate members of our society.

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# A poetic thank-you

be forgotten - Mrs. H. Lixenburg, J'm. \$50 in honor of my mother, Rachel Sebbag of Herzliya; in memory of my father Elie Sebbag of Herzliya and my sister, Solly Levim of Samaria - Ester Beach, Herzliya.

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\$10 With a complete recovery for Yitzhak ben Mordechai Clayman - Irwin and Esther Clayman, Birmingham, AL. \$1,000 In loving memory of our departed dear friend, Gerald Paul - Anon. DFL100 in memory of my parents - L.D.F., Holland.

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NIS 15 in honor of my grandson's bar mitzva - Mrs. H. Lixenburg, J'm. \$100 Best wishes for a "Hag Semeah" to the children of Israel - The Children of Temple Emans-EI Religious School, Englewood, NJ.

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## A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

My parents were originally Ottoman subjects, citizens of the area of the Ottoman empire called the Sanjak of Jerusalem (not "Palestine").

This was one of several districts into which the Ottomans had divided Eretz Yisrael and Syria in the second half of the 19th century.

The Sanjak of Jerusalem was autonomous, reporting directly to the capital, Istanbul. It included the land from Jaffa south to the Sinai Peninsula and east to the tip of the Dead Sea.

The remainder of the western side of the Jordan River was divided into the Sanjaks of Nablus (Shechem), Acre and Beirut, responsible to the Vilayet of Beirut, and the eastern side was divided into the Sanjaks of Kerak and Hauran, extending down to Akaba, and responsible to the Vilayet of Damascus.

This was but the latest in a long series of administrative or military reorganizations and renamings of the country since the Roman emperor Hadrian imposed the name "Palaeestina" on it in the second century, as part of his effort to expunge from the land every Jewish association. In fact, the Romans divided the entire region from Syria and Lebanon down through Arabia into three districts, called Palaeestina I, II, and III respectively.

The Muslim caliphs retained the name, though they changed the borders of the districts. And until the 10th century, Eretz Yisrael's Arab conquerors generally did not call Jerusalem by the name used today, "al-Kuds/the Holy," but "Elyas."

This was a corrupt abbreviation of "Aelia Capitolina," the name Hadrian, whose Latin name was Publius Aelius Hadrianus, had given it in honor of himself and the Roman god Jupiter Capitolinus.

My elder sister was born here in February 1917, and was thus also originally an Ottoman subject and citizen of the Sanjak of Jerusalem. The following November the British took the country from the Ottomans and restored its Hadrianic name, "Palestine." My parents and sister - like the rest of the country's population - were now "Palestinians," and that is the label they bore when my father arrived in the US in 1921 and my mother and sister in 1922 with British passports.

They were part of a large emigration from Eretz Yisrael in the early years after World War I, when an estimated 10 percent of the country's population, both Jews and Arabs, left in that chaotic period before conditions here attained relative stability.

There apparently was a pattern in both communities, whereby the eldest son or the married son was to go to the US or one of those other lands whose streets were paved with gold, spend a day or two filling a crate or two with gold for mailing back home, another day or two filling a valise or two with

additional gold to carry home, and everyone would live happily ever after.

In the end, they stayed in the US, coming back home when my father reached Social Security age. Meanwhile and afterwards, I and my family and three sisters, including the Palestinian, also returned home to Jerusalem.

Many of my parents' Jewish fellow Palestinians and their progeny have similar stories, and after the Six Day War, in Ramallah and the Shuafat and Beit Hanina neighborhoods of Jerusalem, I met Arabs of my parents' generation who told the same story.

In August 1967 I told all this to a denizen of the Dehaishe camp near Bethlehem whom I was visiting. The man, in his early 30s, who said he had spent three years in Algeria as an English teacher, had laid out a peace proposal, the one commonly offered in those years by the PLO.

"Look," he said, "why can't we live in peace? After all, we're cousins. The Jews who came here after the Balfour Declaration will go back to the European countries they came from. Those countries will welcome them with open arms: after all, the Jews are so clever and industrious. And those staying here will be happy citizens of a secular democratic state..."

I told him my family's story, and pleaded that it wasn't my fault that my parents, like all those others, had had to leave because of the epidemics in the land and the lack of food and work, etc.

He pondered for a few moments, then gave me the good news: "All right, Jews like Moshe Kohn will also be able to stay."

I was too exhilarated to think of asking him to give me his assurance in writing.

ALL THIS was brought to mind again by my having been named by Walid M. Awad of the "Palestine Ministry of Information" as a usurping invader, one of many, who have come here to make life miserable for today's Palestinians.

In a rather purple article in the Palestinian National Authority's Internet website, "A page in the life of a Palestinian in East Jerusalem," Awad paints a somewhat idyllic picture of Israel's demographic kaleidoscope.

He writes about the "strange mixture of people" serving in our Border Police. He writes: "...some are blacks from Ethiopia, some are ginger, some are blond with blue eyes and heavy accents, there are Russian, some are Americans, Yemenite, Moroccan, Argentinian, as a matter of fact I saw Chinese and Indian looking soldiers manning checkpoints on the way from Ramallah to Arab East Jerusalem."

But all this is not intended to show Israel's or the Jewish people's non-racist quality, but is part of a tale of woe about how the likes of me and those police, "strange to the soil of our land," commit outrages against presumably true children of this soil like him.

The essay contains some of the usual lies and distortions. For example, I and those police are among those who "occupied our land... forcing themselves upon us and our land in 1967 and the previous invasions such as that of 1948."

Of course, in 1967 we "forced" ourselves upon them in response to

# Lying for Palestine

# Priests sanctified by prophets

the Temple ritual (B.T. Zevachim 7). A prophet, on the other hand, is not chosen because of genealogy, and the garments he wears need not have any significance. What he does have is a message - indeed, the very word navi means to speak out.

Throughout history, people have always turned to priests and prophets for ways to live in a changing world. Change reminds us of the ultimate change - our own ultimate disappearance. Thus, we seek ways to clutch at something. On the simplest level, religion provides this sense of continuity. After all, the God of all religions is eternal.

On Shabbat we make Kiddush, chanting the same words our grandparents chanted. We light Sabbath candles, often using a candelabra that belonged to our grandmothers. We pray that our grandchildren will do the same. To participate in ritual means to participate in eternity. This is the bread and butter of every religion.

But as Paul Tillich says, if the only reason I maintain a ritual is because my father and grandfather did, then this symbol will die a dull death. Moreover, Judaism taught the world not only monotheism, but

ethical monotheism. God's purpose was for the first Jew to command his children and household after him to "keep God's way, doing righteousness and justice" (Gen. 18:19).

Certainly, outer form is important, but no more than inner content. In addition to structure, there must be significance. Together with the external form of the priest must come the content of the prophet, the voice of ethics, morality and compassion in every situation.

Our portion Tzav opens with Moses instructing Aaron and his descendants as to the law of the burnt offering and the nature of the fire on the altar. "Thus there shall be a constant fire kept burning on the altar, without being extinguished" (Lev. 6:6). This was the external fire of the priests. But there is also the internal fire of a prophet, "the fire pent up in his bones."

Technically speaking, the priest administered the sacrifices, keeping the fire on the altar alive. But in metaphorical terms, the prophet sanctified his entire life to keep the fire "inside" the altar alive, inside the minds and hearts of the people.

Who, then, is more important to Israel? Since the second half of Exodus and virtually all of Leviticus is devoted to the Temple and the priestly role, one might conclude that the priest's dominion over the prophet is self-evident.

Indication that the opposite is true - that indeed the prophet is more significant than the priest - can be discerned from the fact that Moses dresses, purifies and sanctifies Aaron. Our portion opens with the Divine command to Moses, archetypal of all prophets, to install Aaron, archetype of all priests, and

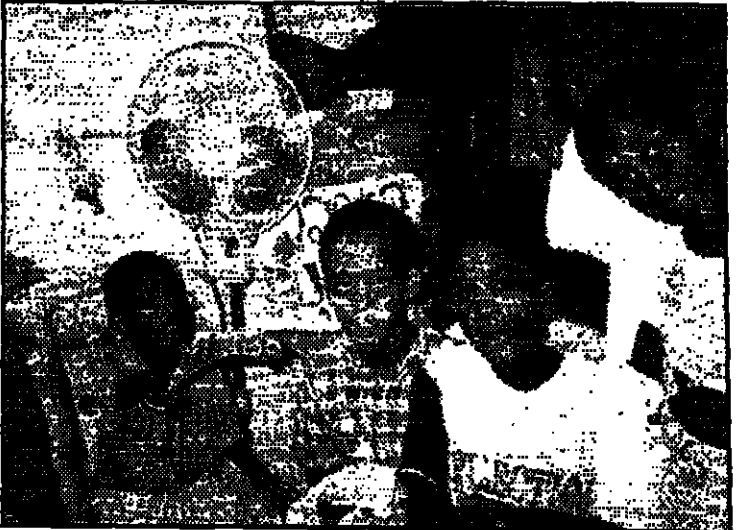
dress him. In effect, the prophet sanctifies the priest because Aaron's sanctity literally derives from Moses. By extension, this means that ritual is a means to an end, the end being the message of the prophet.

Etiologically, the word "sacrifice" means to "make sacred," but in Hebrew the word korban tells us that the offering is intended to bring us near (kiryv) to God. If we only see the external fire, we're missing the point. As the prophet Isaiah declares, God hates our sacrifices and rituals and holy days if they're not accompanied by moral and ethical action.

When Moses dresses Aaron, his purpose is to teach us that the reason for all outer fires (priestly rituals) is to create a nation imbued with the inner fire of morality and ethics.

Shabbat Shalom

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## HIGH TECH

with Jennifer Friedlin

**Azmut receives NIS 2m. order**  
Azmut Technologies Ltd. of Ra'anana, received a NIS 2.2 million order for its car-tracking system from an undisclosed South American customer. Based on GPS technology, the cellular system allows companies to electronically keep track of their automotive fleets.

**Chief Scientist to help firms aiming abroad**  
Orna Berry, chief scientist at the Ministry of Industry of Trade, said that she will increase investments in 1997 in companies seeking to market their goods abroad. Berry said she is also putting special emphasis on start-ups headed by new immigrants. The chief scientist's 1997 budget is NIS 1.36 billion, 10% less than last year.

**Cisco to establish development center**  
Cisco Systems Ltd., a \$5b. manufacturer of multi-protocol internetworking systems, has announced plans to establish a development center in Israel. James Richardson, president of Cisco Europe, is expected to discuss the center's expected size and location during a visit to Israel on April 9.

**CMS receives NIS 2m. from Orbotech**  
CMS Computerization and Measurement Systems, Hewlett Packard's local representative, has received a NIS 2.2m. order to supply Orbotech with HP workstations. Among the machines Orbotech selected are the C-180, which allows for 3-dimensional graphics.

**Comfy interactive to sell shares on TASE**  
Comfy Interactive Movies of Givatayim has filed a prospectus with the Israel Securities Authority to issue shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The company, which manufactures hardware and software designed for children 1-6 years old, said it expects to raise \$25m. - \$30m.  
The offering, which will be the TASE's first one in six months, is being underwritten by Israel Brokerage and Investments Ltd. and Leader Securities Offerings Ltd.

**Edusoft offers courses over the Internet**  
Edusoft, a subsidiary of Degen Systems, is offering virtual classes through the Internet site, www.edusoft.co.il. The site contains 22 math and 21 physics courses that together offer more than 400 interactive lessons. For the first three months of operation, the site will be free to users. Based in Tel Aviv, Edusoft also develops and markets multimedia educational software.

**European group seeks Israeli partners**  
Representatives from nine European concerns will visit here next week in an effort to find industrial and academic partners for a variety of high-tech joint ventures. The Industrial Center for Research and Development, in conjunction with the Chief Scientist's office, will conduct a two-day conference at the Dan-Adafia Hotel in Herzliya Pituah on April 2-3.

**Eventus Logistics releases MDP system**  
Eventus Logistics of Ramat Gan has announced the release of the Market Demand Planner, a system that forecasts companies' future demand and sales. The MDP integrates elements of demand/sales forecasting, including statistical forecasts, performance reports and demand/sales filters, to help companies in inventory, production and distribution planning.

**Memco announces deals with European firms**  
Memco Software has announced agreements with four European distributors to integrate and market Memco's SeOS line of products. The four companies, the French Ares, the British Integrals, the Italian Seleta Integrations and the Dutch Syllagic B.V., join Astrom of Scandinavia and Emprise of Germany as Memco's European resellers. Based in Tel Aviv, Memco develops security software that is designed to protect and manage information in an open client/server environment.

**M-Systems appoints former Sony VP as CEO**  
M-Systems Flash Disk Pioneers Ltd. has announced the appointment of Charles Schouw as president and CEO of M-Systems Inc., the company's US subsidiary, which handles sales and marketing in North America. Prior to joining M-Systems, Schouw was vice president of sales for Sony Corporation of America. He was in charge of the semiconductor market and increased semiconductor sales from \$2m. in 1985 to \$300m. in 1996. M-Systems develops software and hardware data storage solutions based on flash memory technology.

**Orckit wins 'Byte' award**  
Orckit Communications Ltd. won Byte magazine's "Best Communications Hardware" award for its xDSL FastInternet concentrator, during the CeBIT trade show which recently took place in Germany. The xDSL is a digital signal processing device used in routing modem and Internet traffic. Orckit was chosen from among such finalists as 3Com.

**3Com to bundle Check Point's software**  
3Com recently announced an agreement to bundle Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.'s security console with its software. According to the agreement, the companies agreed to assure compatibility between Check Point's open platform for secure enterprise connectivity framework and 3Com's Netbuilder firewall. In addition, 3Com will ship an evaluation copy of Check Point's management console with every Netbuilder router sold.  
Based in Ramat Gan, Check Point's Firewall-1 held 44% of the firewall market in the first half of 1996. 3Com of Redwood City, California, is one of the largest and fastest growing data networking companies.

## Foreign banks use local currency in China

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Two foreign banks in Shanghai yesterday opened for local Chinese currency business for the first time since the Communist takeover in 1949, a significant step in the opening up of the Chinese economy, bankers said.  
One of the first yuan accounts was opened by the British Consul-General Warren Townsend, who deposited an auspicious 888.88 yuan (\$107) in a checking account with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. Eight is considered a lucky number in China.  
The Shanghai branch of the Industrial Bank of Japan said it signed pre-agreements with two Japanese firms, Hitachi and Matsushita to take in yuan deposits. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi's deputy general manager in Shanghai, Tsutomu Hiroe, said his bank would also begin yuan business by the end of March.  
But bankers said the scale of the business would be very small in the initial stages, and it would probably take years before foreign banks could establish a significant presence in China's huge banking system.

## Clal Israel profits drop 45%

### Clal Industries' Rosen quits after three months in office

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK  
Clal Israel reported a loss for the fourth quarter of 1996, its first quarterly loss in more than seven years, amid top-level musical chairs which are unrelated to the results, and a surprising resignation announcement by Clal Industries general manager Yossi Rosen, three months after his appointment.  
The company reported a net loss of NIS 1.3 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 49m. in the final quarter of 1995. Net profits for all of 1996 plunged 45% to NIS 112m. from NIS 204m. in 1995.



Yitzhak Kaul



David Wainshal (Ron Edel)

The annual results include capital losses of NIS 102.6m. and capital gains of NIS 73.3m. The losses primarily stemmed from the drop in the share values of Scitec, Sunfrost, Kitan, Cables of Zion, Clal Trade, and US pharmaceutical concern PRI, along with other one-time provisions.  
The capital losses and provisions were recorded in the fourth quarter, following the appointment of new managers to Clal and Clal Industries.

Leon Recanati officially took over as chairman from Avi Olshansky yesterday and Yitzhak Kaul formally took over from David Wainshal as president and CEO.  
Meanwhile, Rosen announced his decision to resign. He intends to continue in his previous position as head of the Mashav holding company jointly controlled by Clal and Koor.  
Clal's controlling shareholder,

the IDB Group, appointed Rosen to serve as general manager of Clal Industries for a six month trial period during which he would continue to manage Mashav. At his request, it was agreed that he would then decide whether to continue to head Clal, which would involve his leaving Mashav.  
The IDB Group appointed Rosen to restructure Clal Industries and its subsidiary Clal Electronics Industries, which have been a source of disappointment

for IDB in recent years. Clal Industries announced a 68 plunge in net earnings last year, to NIS 78.7m.  
It was agreed that both Kaul and Rosen would serve as general managers of Clal, with Rosen managing the industrial activity and Kaul the rest of Clal's businesses.  
"The strategic plan recently approved for Clal Industries directs the company to gradually operate as a flexible investment company, which is active as a financial partner in its investments, but does not strive to gain control of its investments," Rosen said in his letter of resignation.  
"This plan, while it is strategically right for Clal does not take advantage of my experience and my preferences and does not enable me to express my managerial experience and the managerial challenges that I had hoped for upon receiving the position."  
Rosen said Mashav faces a number of strategic challenges this year. He said his contribution to the Clal Group will be greater in Mashav than in Clal Industries.

## Generali wants to meet MKs over Holocaust policies

By DAVID HARRIS  
Italian insurance company Assicurazioni Generali yesterday offered to meet members of the Knesset Finance Committee to discuss the company's response to claims it failed to pay out on insurance policies of Holocaust victims.  
Generali's legal representative in Israel, Amihud Ben-Porat, said his company would be prepared to send representatives to discuss the matter but without preconditions and behind closed doors.  
Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) invited company officials to meet him and other MKs to determine whether a "gentlemen's agreement" can be reached. Ben-Porat refused to allow family representatives to attend part of the meeting.  
Other MKs attending yesterday's committee meeting were much harsher in criticizing the alleged lack of action by Generali. Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), who chairs the insurance sub-committee described Generali's attitude as "intolerable" and advised the company that it is making a serious mistake, given that it is beginning to do business here. Several months ago Generali bought Migdal Insurance from Bank Leumi for more than \$300 million.  
Kleiner reiterated that until the Treasury intervenes in the issue, he, together with Avraham Herschson (Likud) and Nissim Dahan (Shas), will continue to vote against the Treasury in the committee, giving the opposition an effective majority.  
Kleiner and Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) called on the company to place advertisements throughout Israel, Europe and the US asking anyone with outstanding policies to come forward.  
"In response to the company's contention that the family members did not follow the correct legal procedures in making the claims, Shaki argued, "If countries are prepared to forget about the rules, why can't Generali just do the decent thing?"  
Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) called on Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer to force the company to act, saying Generali had a legal obligation to its clients and if policies went missing the company had a duty to replace them.  
"If Shorer won't do something, then I'll introduce legislation to the Knesset," he said.  
However, Shorer said he did not believe there is a legal way to help the families. It is far too late to take this type of action 50 years later, Shorer said. He also said that the issue of the policies and the sale of Migdal are totally unrelated.  
Bank Leumi denied any prior knowledge of the policy issue. "We signed the Migdal deal in July 1996, and were only approached by letter for the first time [about the policies] in late September," said Leumi board member Zvi Iskowitz.  
Meanwhile, the 50-plus families, represented by lawyer Elisheva Ansbacher, are considering launching a class-action suit against the company here.  
"We are collating a great deal of information and working in cooperation with lawyers in England and Italy. If the company continues refusing to reach an agreement we will take this to court, even to the Supreme Court," said Ansbacher.

## Howard Johnson hotels come to Israel

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Howard Johnson, the American hotel chain, is coming to Israel, company representatives confirmed yesterday.  
The US chain is expected to announce an agreement with the Israel Lands Development Corporation to hold the franchise for the Palestinian Authority, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. ILDC has four hotels organized as the Israel Resort Hotels chain, which are apparently going to become part of the Howard Johnson network.  
Here to sign the agreement is Eric Pfeiffer, president of HFS, the New Jersey-based holding company which includes, in addition to Howard Johnson, the Days Inn, Ramada and Park Inn chains. HFS last year had an annual turnover of \$800 million, generated from some 4,200 hotels in dozens of countries.  
On Sunday, the two companies are expected to announce the results of negotiations with additional three- and four-star hotels in Israel and elsewhere in the region. Under the Howard Johnson framework, IRH intends to expand to seven hotels with some 1,500 rooms by the end of next year.  
Two years ago, HFS brought the Days Inn chain to Israel. That chain now has six hotels here with 750 rooms. Days Inn also has two hotels under construction in Jerusalem, with a combined total of 600 rooms.

## Sydney Olympics IPO falls short Stadium Australia still needs millions

By KEVIN MORRISON

SYDNEY (Reuters) - The consortium building the Sydney 2000 Olympics stadium closed the books on an innovative financing scheme yesterday and left its underwriters the task of making up a massive funding shortfall.  
Stadium Australia has been left facing the shortfall after investors shunned its \$364.4 million (US\$286.05m.) public share offer.  
Analysts and Australian media put the shortfall at up to \$240m., which would make it one of Australia's biggest share flops and mean big losses for the four firms which underwrote the issue.  
However, a spokeswoman for Stadium Australia said they expect to release the results of the float late next week, even though the issue officially closed later yesterday.  
Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) president and Olympics minister Michael Knight agreed yesterday that there was likely to be a shortfall for the Stadium Australia float.  
"It is not a direct concern to either the government or to SOCOG, although obviously we would prefer that the Stadium float was better subscribed than it is apparently the case," Knight told reporters at a press conference.

The Stadium float flop comes hard on the heels of the resignation of SOCOG chief executive Mal Hemmerling, although they were unrelated. Hemmerling was replaced by bureaucrat Sandy Hollway, who worked for former prime minister Bob Hawke.  
The Stadium Australia offer has been open for almost six months, more than twice as long as most share offers.  
Its offer of 34,400 gold packages at \$10,000 each and 600 platinum passes at \$33,000 each opened on October 7 and its closing date has been extended twice due to a lack of demand.  
Australian stockbrokers said the offer was too expensive. "Nobody is going to buy just one ticket, with a family you are more likely to buy four, so it's going to cost \$450,000," one Sydney-based broker said.  
An Australian's average annual income is about \$36,000.  
"Not many people can spend that sort of money, particularly if there is no guarantee on what events are going to be held there after the Olympics," the broker said.  
The gold packages include a seat at every stadium session of the 2000 Olympic Games, stadium membership for 30 years and 1,000 shares in the stadium company itself. The platinum

package includes two priority seats and membership privileges.  
"It was a risk taken by the private sector fully, underwritten by the private sector and the large merchant banks have indicated ... that they would meet any shortfall," Knight said.  
The four underwriters are ANZ Securities, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Macquarie Bank Ltd and ABN AMRO Hoare Govett.  
"If there is a shortfall, [and] that appears to be the case, after today they will still have a considerable period of time to trade their way out of trouble," Knight said.  
The underwriters must fund the project regardless of whether all the packages are sold, thus guaranteeing the completion of the 110,000-seat stadium, which is due to open in 1999 at a cost of \$660m.  
"The money is absolutely guaranteed, the stadium construction is rocketing ahead and will not be affected in any way by the difficulties the underwriters are facing in recouping the money," Knight said.  
The stadium is being built by a consortium led by private Australian construction group Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd, British investment bank Hambros Plc and Japanese building contractor Obayashi Corp.

The Jerusalem Post  
defence worker in the industrial technology city of Novosibirsk, located 3,000 km east of Moscow. It has up to 20,000 people in the city, which has a population of 1.5 million.  
These are the first tests for Russia, named over recent weeks. Forecast 20 million people are being over 100,000 in Moscow. Instructions will give an order which have built up in the economic reform - a painful process opened a yawning gulf between them. I have promised to resolve this as quickly as possible.  
T.H. 21.3.97  
d in tears. sorrow is our sorrow. will always stay sacred. togetherness will strength.  
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say but no words that I feel. Maggy, my dear. In deep love, Jennifer  
you as the penit sould. delicate smile will live on heart forever.  
possible to overcome. living and will you, Maggy.  
feel you with us more. We love you. Tanja and Nita  
say good-bye to you. red cousin. my heart eternally.  
with all my heart.  
e sun. mine the fish. and hope

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.75	4.00	5.575
German mark (€100,000)	3.75	1.94	2.007
French franc (FF 200,000)	1.825	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.780	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (27.3.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8221	3.8508	3.27	3.43	3.8587
German mark	3.2922	3.3629	2.87	2.94	3.2610
French franc	1.9785	2.0105	1.94	2.04	2.0077
Japanese yen (100)	5.4242	5.5117	5.33	5.59	5.4883
Dutch florin	0.5870	0.5885	0.57	0.61	0.5833
Swiss franc	2.8907	2.7341	2.84	2.78	2.7205
British pound	1.7980	1.7874	1.72	1.82	1.7782
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2820	2.3188	2.24	2.36	2.3071
Italian lira (1000)	0.4383	0.4454	0.43	0.46	0.4437
Canadian dollar	0.5010	0.5091	0.48	0.52	0.5060
Australian dollar	0.5180	0.5274	0.51	0.54	0.5246
Portuguese escudo (200)	0.8872	0.8780	0.85	0.88	0.8742
Belgian franc (10)	2.4246	2.4838	2.38	2.50	2.4483
Irish punt	2.5185	2.5598	2.57	2.70	2.5352
South African rand	0.7827	0.7849	0.88	0.77	0.7801
Israeli shekel (10)	0.9590	0.9745	0.94	0.99	0.9680
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8115	2.8589	2.78	2.90	2.8428
Indian rupee (1000)	1.9814	2.0134	1.94	2.05	2.0030
Jordanian dinar	4.8300	4.9500	4.83	4.95	4.7894
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0300	0.86	1.03	1.0281
Thai baht (10)	3.9480	3.9281	—	—	3.9887
Irish punt	5.2417	5.3283	5.15	5.41	5.2983
Spanish peseta (100)	2.8222	2.8688	2.29	2.41	2.3578

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their stock prices.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks little changed. Mishtanim 242.95 ▲ +0.09%. Maof 250.88 ▲ +0.02%.

By JESSICA STEINBERG and ROBERT DANIEL. Shares were little changed yesterday, led by drops in Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi...

of issues in the Maof Index dropped yesterday because options traders are selling shares. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 165 million of shares traded...

Electronics shares rose 0.5 to NIS 323.43. Clal Industries shares dropped 0.25 to NIS 15.76. Isaac Kaul, former president of Bezeq...

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists top 100 Mishtanim issues.

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WORLD MARKET REPORT

Markets see mild gains

LONDON (Reuters) - Here is how major stock markets outside the United States ended yesterday. LONDON - The UK's leading blue-chip index ended a holiday-shortened week on a firmer note...

shares end a shortened session higher. But apart from those blue chips, the market was mostly mixed, one trader noted. Some shares profited from favourable results and technical factors...

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

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OTHER MARKET INDEXES

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DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists dollar crossrates.

NEW YORK

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US COMMODITIES

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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

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LONDON METAL FIXES

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SPOT MARKET METALS (EURO)

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NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

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LONDON METAL FIXES

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PARIS

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ART GUIDE

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE PHARMACIES
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Jerusalem: Jatta Gate, 628-3898; Shabat, Shabat Road, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6481; Lev Ha'ir, 69 Ahad Ha'aim, 580-3862.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Magdial, 54 Derech Magdial, 741-5567.
Haifa: Hanita, 22 Hanita, 823-1905.
Krayot area: Merkaz Merahem, 29 Sd. Yerushalayim, Kiryat Yam Akri, 575-9441.
Herzliya: Ciel Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Masket (on Sdrot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
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ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Soviet Photography from the Museum Collection 'Andris Serrano: The Morgue,' Zvi Heckler: Sunflower 'Lucian Freud: Works from the early 1940s through the mid-1990s' Portraits - by a group of Israeli artists. Ra'anan Levy: Drawings/Virtual Reality - the domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, March 29
Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (Internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.
Saturday, March 29
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, orthopedics, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.
Sunday, March 30
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 670-6660; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 586-9744; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shabat, Shabat Road, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425; Grusso, 27 Sheinkin, 528-4791. Tel. midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 699-0115.
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Netanya: Ciel Pharm, 60 Binayim, 833-8091.
Haifa: Hanass, 33 Hanassi, 833-9312.
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**On the right track**  
Members of the Knesset Finance Committee, led by chairman Avraham Ravitz (seated), have a go at driving a train in Tel Aviv yesterday. From right are National Infrastructure Ministry Director-General Giora Rom, MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) MK Ophir Pines (Labor) and Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzan.

# Jewish directors of Swiss fund named

**By MARILYN HENRY**

Yesterday's announcement came from SIG president Rolf Bloch, who will take the fourth Swiss seat, striking a balance between the Swiss and the Jewish representatives.

The directors must be approved by the government in Bern, which is expected to name the Swiss members next week.

SIG director Martin Rosenfeld said it is not clear why the announcement had been delayed. "We are astonished that this is taking a long time," he said.

The private fund was started last month with contributions from the three leading Swiss banks. It has since gotten contributions from the Swiss National Bank and Swiss industry.

Eizenstat, who heads the US task force conducting the American historical review of Nazi gold, said earlier this week that the Clinton administration believes a "significant amount" of the humanitarian fund should be used to aid survivors in Central and Eastern Europe.

# French panel to probe seized Jewish assets

**PARIS (AP)** - The government named a panel on Wednesday to investigate the fate of Jewish property confiscated during World War II, seeking to end France's "heavy silence" on the issue.

The eight-member committee, which includes leading Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, will research which Jewish holdings were seized during the war and what happened to them afterward.

"Your mission, I trust, will be difficult and take time," Prime Minister Alain Juppe said during the inauguration ceremony. "That's nothing surprising after so many years of heavy silence."

French youth must "learn or relearn history, and not try to rewrite it," Juppe said.

Calls for such an investigation have increased since July 1995, when President Jacques Chirac acknowledged that France was responsible for the deportation of thousands of Jews to Nazi death camps. Recently publicized documents show that the Vichy government, which collaborated with the Nazis during World War II, and the occupying German forces systematically confiscated the belongings of 75,000 Jews deported from France to Nazi death camps. Only 2,500 of them survived.

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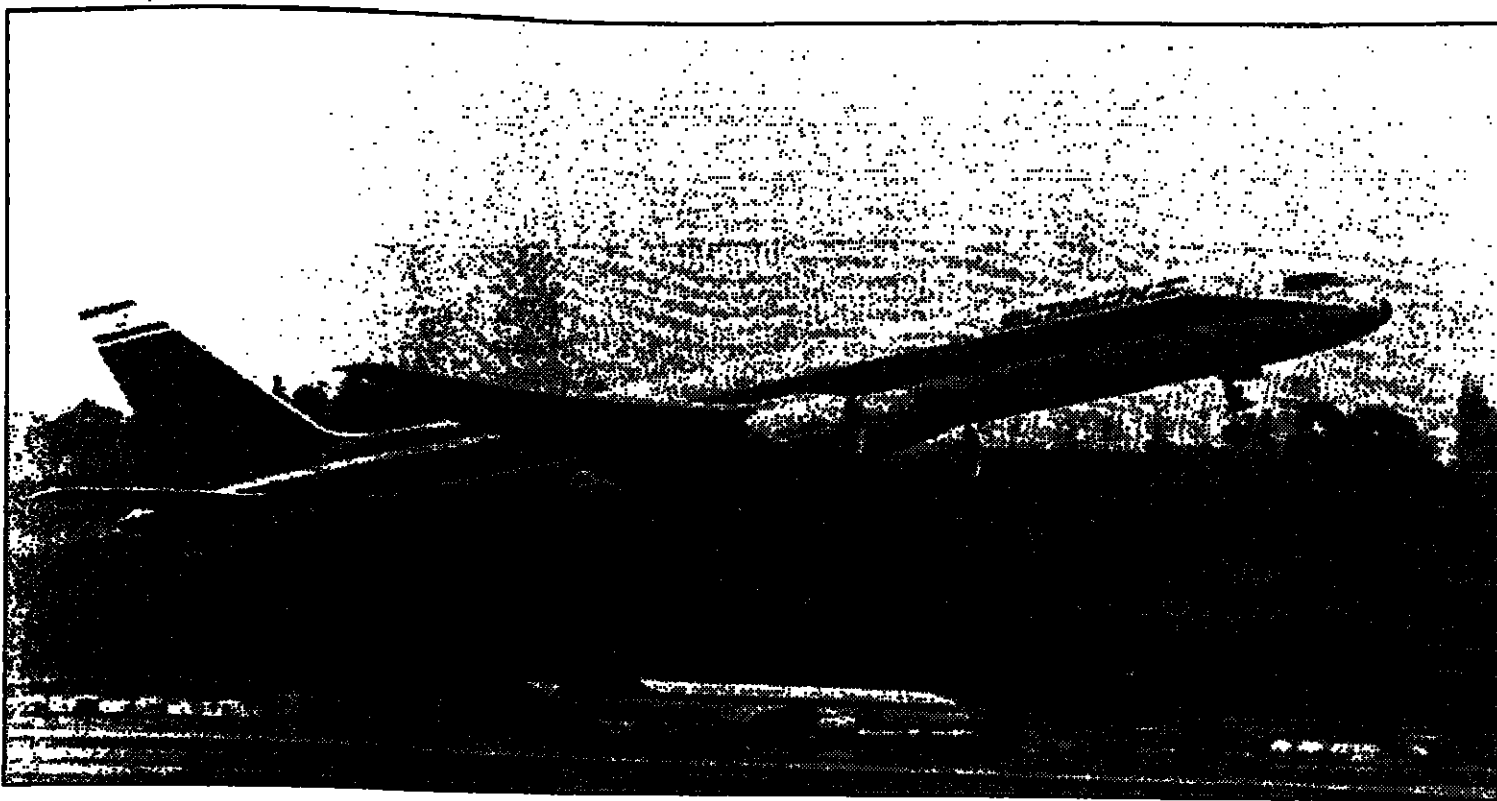
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El Al's new Boeing 757, which the company took delivery of this week.

(Moshe Trivaks)

# El Al picks up leased 757

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

El Al brought home its new \$55 million Boeing 757 on Wednesday, the eighth to join the fleet, but the first to be leased instead of purchased. The medium-to-long-range jetliner is expected to see service between Israel and European cities.

General Manager Joel Feldschuh said leasing was the best option for El Al at this time, when flexibility is needed.

"All the airlines in the world are leasing some of their aircraft. It gives you better flexibility and is easier on your balance sheets," Feldschuh said, after accepting delivery of the new aircraft in Seattle, Washington. Most airlines now lease an average of 40 percent of their jets.

"Airline costs are going up but airfares haven't gone up at the

same rate. The profit margin is much less than it used to be. So airlines don't have the cash to go out and buy the planes it wants," said company spokesman Nachman Klieman, who noted that fuel costs rose by 30 percent but ticket prices only went up 7 percent.

El Al is leasing the plane for three years with an option to extend the lease or buy it from the International Lease and Finance Corporation. John Pluger, chairman of ILFC, said they purchased the new plane from Boeing and immediately leased it to El Al. ILFC is the world's second-largest handler of leased planes.

Feldschuh added that El Al has no planes on order now, but that the company is examining purchasing possibilities, including bringing a European Airbus into its all-Boeing fleet. "We have not

yet finalized our analysis for future acquisitions," Feldschuh said. That decision is expected to be made in May.

El Al's sleek new jet comes following a winter in which it cut 20 percent of its schedules, and following a year in which it lost \$80 million. Company officials admitted that the 757 was ordered 18 months ago, during a boom in tourism here. But they expect the current downturn to turn around, starting with Pessah and Easter and followed by a busy summer.

"Optimism is the name of the game, you buy a new plane you have to fill it. To do so you start marketing and competing," said Klieman. "An increased number of planes in the fleet allows us to increase frequency. It's always easier to plan bigger and cut back than the opposite."

Klieman said he didn't believe last week's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv and the unrest in the territories would have much of an immediate effect, since those coming now are visiting their families for the holidays or traveling for religious reasons. "Passover looks very good and strong," he said.

With the addition of the new 757, El Al now has 27 aircraft in service. The average age of the aircraft in its fleet is about 11 years, lower than the industry average of 17.

The 757-258ER ("ER" stands for extended range) holds 182 passengers in business and tourist class.

Klieman said the new jet will help deal with the expected boom in Christian tourism during the run-up to the year 2000. El Al carries 45 to 47 percent of all traffic to and from Israel.

# Detroit battles its way past Colorado

DETROIT (AP) — Darren McCarty scored 39 seconds into overtime Wednesday night as the Detroit Red Wings took a fight-filled 6-5 victory over the Colorado Avalanche.

The Red Wings' lone victory in four meetings with the defending North American NHL champions was also the 300th career victory for Detroit goalie Mike Vernon, who squared off with Colorado's Patrick Roy in the biggest of several brawls during the bitter contest.

Wednesday marked the first time Lemieux had played in Detroit since he decked the Red Wings' Kris Draper with a backside cross check in last year's playoffs. The hit resulted in Draper undergoing major facial and oral surgery and Lemieux being suspended for the first two games of the Stanley Cup Finals.

Canadiens 8, Penguins 5  
In Montreal, the Canadiens spoiled Mario Lemieux's probable

last NHL appearance in his hometown, beating Pittsburgh 8-5 despite two goals and three assists by the Penguins' superstar.

Lemieux fought back tears as the sellout crowd of 21,273 stood and cheered after Lemieux made it 8-4 at 15:59 of the final period. The Montreal native got another ovation when he scored the game's last goal past Jocelyn Thibault on a power play with 52 seconds left.

The Canadiens scored five times in the first period for the win on what was expected to be Lemieux's final game in Montreal.

Lemieux has said he would probably retire after this season.

Lemieux, who has rivaled Wayne Gretzky as the NHL's top player for 13 seasons, ended a career-high three-game stretch without a point with three assists in the second period. His goalless streak ended at seven games as well.

Wednesday's games: N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 2, OT; Montreal 5, Pittsburgh 5; Detroit 6, Colorado 5, OT; Chicago 5, Washington 3; Vancouver 5, Anaheim 3; Toronto 2, San Jose 1.

## National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Philadelphia	42	21	11	85	251	198
x-New Jersey	39	21	8	83	201	179
Florida	33	24	17	83	201	179
N.Y. Rangers	35	30	9	79	239	206
Washington	30	37	8	68	191	211
Tampa Bay	29	37	7	65	199	206
N.Y. Islanders	25	36	11	63	205	212
Northeast Division						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Buffalo	38	24	11	87	218	182
Pittsburgh	34	33	7	75	256	258
Montreal	28	33	14	70	282	258
Hartford	27	36	10	64	194	229
Ottawa	24	34	15	63	200	217
Boston	24	41	9	57	212	288
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Dallas	44	23	6	94	228	174
Detroit	35	34	5	75	213	222
Phoenix	30	32	12	72	198	190
Chicago	31	34	9	71	216	225
St. Louis	31	34	9	60	212	256
Toronto	27	41	6	60	212	256
Pacific Division						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Colorado	46	20	9	101	257	184
Edmonton	34	37	7	75	230	221
Anaheim	31	33	11	73	221	216
Calgary	32	35	8	72	201	218
Vancouver	31	39	5	67	231	263
Los Angeles	26	38	10	62	194	242
San Jose	24	43	7	55	184	245
x - clinched playoff berth						



TIGHT DEFENSE — Doug West of the Minnesota Timberwolves (left) drives under the basket against Denver Nuggets' Ervin Johnson in Wednesday's NBA action.

# Mourning returns, leads heat with 26 points

MIAMI (AP) — Alonzo Mourning made a successful return to the Miami Heat's starting lineup Wednesday night, scoring 26 points as the Heat posted their seventh straight victory, 101-88 over the Sacramento Kings.

Tim Hardaway also scored 26 for Miami. Mitch Richmond paced Sacramento with 32, while Billy Owens added 17.

The Kings have lost 10 of their last 11 and seven in a row on the road.

Mourning was in the starting lineup for the first time since Feb. 21, when he tore a tendon in his right foot. He missed 13 games before scoring 21 points in 35 minutes as a reserve in Miami's 113-108 win Sunday over the Timberwolves in Minnesota.

The Heat had a 9-4 record while Mourning was out.

Nets 123, Sixers 105  
In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jim Jackson tied his season-high with 28 points and Tony Massenburg matched his career-high with 26 for New Jersey. The 123 points tied the Nets' season high.

Hours before the game, NBA commissioner David Stern fined Nets coach John Calipari \$25,000 for calling newspaper sports writer Dan Garcia of the "Mexican idiot." The comment after a practice last week was preceded by an expletive.

The fine was the largest ever against an NBA coach, and it marked the first time the league punished non-game related speech.

Calipari said after the game he would not contest the fine.

Jerry Stackhouse had 20 to pace the Sixers.

Bullets 105, Celtics 92  
In Landover, Maryland, reserve

Tracy Murray scored a season-high 24 points and Rod Strickland had a season-high 17 assists as the Bulls inched closer to a playoff berth.

Chris Webber scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for the Bulls, who now trail the eighth-place Cleveland by 1 1/2 games in the Eastern Conference.

Washington has won six of eight games.

Eric Williams led Boston, which has dropped four straight and 25 of 27, with 24 points. The Celtics fell to 0-20 against Atlantic Division teams.

Juwan Howard had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who can complete its first series sweep of Boston since 1978-79 with a victory April 6 at the Fleet Center.

Trail Blazers 88, Hornets 87  
In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kenny Anderson scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half and the Trail Blazers held Charlotte to one field goal in the final six minutes.

Anderson, who played part of last season for the Hornets, added eight assists as the Trail Blazers improved their record in Charlotte to 8-2.

Glen Rice had 33 points for the Hornets, who missed five of their last six field-goal attempts and had their three-game winning streak broken.

Knicks 105, Pistons 94  
In New York, the Knicks' 50th victory of the season gave them a 2-1 edge in the season series and moved them 1 1/2 games ahead of Detroit in the race for the third playoff seed in the East.

New York also clinched the tiebreaker edge and will get the higher seed if the teams finish with the same record.

It was the Knicks' first all-around strong game since they beat the

Chicago Bulls 2 1/2 weeks ago — a victory that was followed by losses in four of their next six games, including five against sub-.500 teams.

Patrick Ewing scored 27 points for New York, which stayed 2 1/2 games behind Miami in the Atlantic Division. The Knicks became the first team in 11 games to score more than 100 points against the Pistons.

Wednesday's games: New Jersey 123, Philadelphia 105; Washington 105, Boston 92; Miami 101, Sacramento 88; Portland 85, Charlotte 87; Indiana 104, Dallas 99; New York 105, Detroit 94; Minnesota 102, Denver 100; Phoenix 103, Seattle 107; L.A. Lakers 106, Milwaukee 84.

## NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
W	L	Pct.	GB		
x-Miami	52	17	75.4	2.0	
x-New York	50	20	71.4	2.0	
Orlando	40	29	58.0	7.0	
Washington	34	35	49.3	18.0	
New Jersey	22	47	31.9	30.0	
Philadelphia	19	50	27.6	33.0	
Boston	13	58	18.3	40.0	
Central Division					
W	L	Pct.	GB		
x-Chicago	60	9	87.0		
x-Detroit	48	21	69.0	12.0	
x-Atlanta	42	27	60.7	18.0	
Charlotte	45	25	64.3	15.0	
Cleveland	38	32	54.3	23.0	
Indiana	37	33	52.9	24.0	
Milwaukee	33	37	47.2	27.0	
Toronto	25	45	35.7	35.0	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Midwest Division					
W	L	Pct.	GB		
x-Utah	52	17	75.4		
x-Houston	46	23	66.7	7.0	
Minnesota	34	36	48.7	19.0	
Dallas	42	27	60.7	12.0	
Denver	22	47	31.9	30.0	
San Antonio	19	50	27.6	33.0	
Vancouver	12	60	16.7	41.0	
Pacific Division					
W	L	Pct.	GB		
x-L.A. Lakers	48	21	70.0		
x-Portland	47	23	67.1	2.0	
Golden State	42	27	60.7	7.0	
L.A. Clippers	31	37	45.1	18.0	
Phoenix	31	38	44.8	19.0	
Sacramento	29	42	40.8	20.0	
Golden State	25	44	36.2	23.0	
x - clinched playoff berth					

## LAND DAY

Continued from Page 10

The peace process, notes Rekhess, enhanced the process of Israelization among the country's Arabs: "Once Israel recognized the Palestinians as a nation it was easier for Israeli Arabs to accept the fact that they are a Palestinian minority in a Jewish state. They became more involved in the country's economy, in fighting for civil equality. They felt more Israeli."

At the same time, however, the process also deepened their Palestinian identity. "We're seeing a very interesting trend," says Rekhess. "Israeli Arabs are

becoming more Palestinian but in a different way than in the '70s or '80s. Then, their nationalist sentiment was expressed by calls for a Palestinian state and demands that Israel recognize the PLO. What they say now is that if Israel has recognized the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people in the territories then what about us? We're also part of the Palestinian people.

"They have become nationally Palestinian within the green line. They demand that the government hand over the extensive Wakf property it is holding to the Moslem community, that it give municipal status to some 40 Arab settlements that have sprung up since 1948, that it permit 'internal

refugees' who fled to Arab villages elsewhere in Israel in 1948 to return to their original villages, most of which have been displaced by kibbutzim or moshavim."

MK Dahamshe, asked which direction Israeli Arabs are headed, replied this week: "We are going in the direction of being good Israeli citizens, in the direction of integration. The government doesn't give us equal rights and does not make us feel accepted. Nevertheless, we are citizens and we will demand equal rights."

Journalist Mashour says that Israeli Jews should not be alienated by Land Day. "They should see it as something belonging to a minority that doesn't endanger them or insult them. If I were a Jew, I think Land Day would

make me want to know more about this community. We Arabs know more about the Jews than they do about us." Which trend did he think was dominant today among Israeli Arabs — Israelization or Palestinization?

"Israelization, without question," he said. "In all areas. With every passing year we become more and more Israeli and distance ourselves more from the Arab world. This is a new creation taking shape, an Arab Israeli or Palestinian Israeli, independent but in the direction of becoming part of the state."

On Sunday, this community in transition takes to the streets and hills in a massive acting out of one side — or is it both? — of its dual identity.

## BARAK

Continued from Page 11

Netanyahu's "from the hip" proposal to skip over the tedium of stages in the interim Oslo agreements and get straight to the permanent Palestinian settlement. "Anyone with eyes in his head can see this will lead to an explosion. Seven months it took [Netanyahu] to open up Shuhada Street. Can you actually picture this man solving the most crucial issues — final borders, settlements, Jerusalem, and the right of return — in six months? It's all word games and deception.

"I don't know what he really wants. I can't really explain the

logic behind his actions. Clearly he's heading for a cul-de-sac. Perhaps he wants the Americans to mediate? The problem is, the American map of the region is more like Arafat's than ours."

REGARDING last week's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv, Barak said that if the government had a real warning that Arafat had given a "green light" to Hamas, it should have done something about it.

"If they had time to notify Clinton and Albright, they should have found time to advise Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. And to impose a closure on the territories — everything they did after the attack in Tel Aviv."

Barak marvels at what he calls

Netanyahu's ability to do everything and its opposite at the same time: "It's a government of magicians. He carries out the Oslo agreement, he gives away pieces of Eretz Yisrael, yet at the same time he turns Arafat into the world's favorite and unites the whole world against us.

"He's even managed to put Jerusalem at the top of the agenda. Look at Har Homa. Has that strengthened us? It has weakened Israel's status and united the world behind the Arab position. He has ruined the trust between Israel and the Palestinians, the very foundation on which everything rested."

In fact, said Barak, since the day he was elected Netanyahu has done nothing. "Once you lose

trust, you lose your credibility. He says to them 'that's all I can give,' then he folds under pressure. This tempts the Palestinians to inflame the situation, in the hope of obtaining more from Netanyahu under pressure."

"Yitzhak [Rabin] radiated the courage of his convictions. Netanyahu radiates feebleness. Everything falls to bits in his hands and we are getting weaker at every step."

Far from breaking up the talks and severing relations, Barak advocates the immediate renewal of contacts at the very top with Arafat, King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "Everything possible must be done to rebuild confidence."

## PERES

Continued from Page 11

note that not long ago Peres vehemently rejected the notion of skipping over Oslo's interim phases, whereas now he is quite willing to coolly weigh the idea. The reason for what they insist is Peres's about-turn, they say, is that it will allow him to now argue that one cannot leave such fateful negotiations in Netanyahu's hands and that he and Labor must rush to the nation's rescue and into the Netanyahu government.

On the Peres side all this is dismissed as paranoia. MK Shevah Weiss, the party's resident political scientist, agrees. "I don't think there are actual concrete contacts towards national unity. It might happen after the Bar-On affair, but at the moment it's gossip which does a lot of people a lot of good and that is why it is so constantly and energetically circulated.

"Netanyahu uses it to keep the political Right at bay. Peres derives prestige because he is perceived as being in the thick of things and his opponents make capital out of the hysteria they generate." To his mind, "Labor is shrouded in an atmosphere of distrust and sinister plots. Part of it may be because we are not so much in the news anymore so we

manufacture news.... Much of what goes on in Labor is personal. Maybe all of it is. It is an Armageddon of personalities and egos. There is really no party any more. To a large extent it's all a result of the system of direct elections. We pushed for it and now we are reaping the bitter harvest."

To this, he observes, "should be added the bitter dejection which still persists after the totally needless, embarrassing, insulting and stupid loss of last year's elections. There is also a lack of continuity. Once we knew that it was either Rabin or Peres at the top and now we have a contest about which I fail to discern any great enthusiasm. There is a sense of impotence and frustration everywhere."

Weiss, who composed Labor's official postmortem analysis on the election campaign, suggests that many of the demons now plaguing the party "could have been avoided had Peres done after his electoral defeat what Rabin would have in the same situation. Rabin would have put all of his critics in their place if in Machiavellian manner they pinned all the blame for the electoral loss on him, as they so unkindly did on Peres.

"He should have told them that they were a bunch of dilettantes who wasted millions in campaign funds and misled him with opti-

mistic predictions which is why he can't leave the party to their like. Not having done this, Peres's situation is sad. He remains the most talented leader Labor has but no one has the guts to tell him to stay and some are afraid that he is not leaving. It's a pathetic farewell and it fuels much of the tension and pernicious suspicion."

The Peres-for-party-president idea is a case in point. It is in fact Weiss's brainchild and not something which party secretary-general Nissim Zivili brought into the world. Weiss, who heads the steering committee for the upcoming party convention in May, assumes that Peres will be given a role not unlike that of Willy Brandt in the German Social Democratic Party after he stepped down as chancellor.

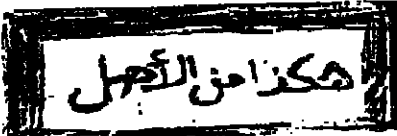
Peres, Weiss attests, "was fully in the picture so far as the proposal was concerned. It was cooked up with his complete agreement." This did not stop Peres sidekick MK Dalia Itzik from immediately branding the notion "a terrible insult to Peres, a slap in the face which he doesn't deserve. His public stature does not depend on titles.

"PERES CAN be the president of the state and not the party president, whatever that is. He is the world's greatest statesman and

such ersatz titles are base and belittling for a figure of his standing." But her reaction was nothing compared to the shrill outcry in the Barak camp, where it was in no time suspected that "this could be a concoction geared to make it impossible for Barak to function as party leader even if elected to the position," as MK Avraham Shohat put it. "Chances are that this won't end up as an innocent honorary title and Labor will end up with two heads — a president and a chairman — who will pull in opposite directions."

Like him MK Ori Orr foresees a situation in which "the president and the chairman stick spanners in the works to foil each other. More than anything this proposal comes to usurp the leadership from the eventual winner of the present contest."

Off the record, Barak's loyalists were far less restrained. Party president Peres, they charged, will roam the corners of the globe claiming to represent Labor and he will exploit the title — whether or not it comes with a clearly defined brief — to pull Labor into a national unity government even after June 3. There is no telling what the indefatigable Peres will do or what he is up to, warn Barak's flustered backers, as they anxiously keep their eye on that revolving door.





# SPORTS

in brief

## Israel cricketers lose to Singapore

Singapore beat Israel by 68 runs in their ICC Trophy group A match in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday. Scores: Singapore 204 in 49.5 overs; Israel 136 in 43.4 overs.

The loss was Israel's third out of three matches played. The team lies joint bottom in the group, together with Gibraltar. The Israelis face the US today and Gibraltar on Sunday.

Post Sports Staff

## Royle quits Everton

LONDON (Reuters) - Everton manager Joe Royle left the English premier league soccer club "by mutual consent" yesterday.

The team's Gibraltar line carried a statement from Royle which said: "I have been disappointed by recent results and by our current league position. Having spoken to the chairman I am leaving by mutual consent."

## Jacques Kalis joining Middlesex

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South African all-rounder Jacques Kalis, 21, has agreed a one-year contract with English county side Middlesex, the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa confirmed yesterday.

Kalis, a hard hitting right hand top order batsman and useful second change medium pace bowler, has played in five Tests for South Africa.

# Mac TA beats Hap J'lem in battle of basketball's big two

By ARYEN DEAN COHEN

What started out with a bang for Hapoel Jerusalem ended up in a whimper, as Maccabi Tel Aviv overcame the early ejection of Buck Johnson to score an easy 85-83 triumph in the battle of local basketball's top two clubs at Malha last night.

The loss sent a message from Zvi Sherf's club to Gadi Kedat's team, two weeks before the two meet in the State Cup final at Yad Eliahu. That message was, simply: you don't have the horses to beat us this time around.

Johnson's early shower came during Jerusalem's early pyrotechnics, as Adi Gordon and Co. raced through Maccabi defenders to run up a quick 9-2 home lead. Johnson was whistled for an offensive foul on a drive to the hoop against Motti Daniel, and had some words to say to referee Moshe Biton at the other end of the floor. When Biton whistled him for a technical, Johnson continued his verbal

abuse, then appeared to spit at Biton as the Maccabi player left the court. He was ordered off the Maccabi bench, and spent most of the game watching his teammates from a corner of the arena.

Johnson must have liked what he saw, as Borko Radovic got Maccabi back in the contest, hitting a three-pointer to cut the lead from 17-8 to 17-15. But Jerusalem finally got its big men going, and Billy Thompson and Dan Bingenheimer pumped the lead back up to 32-24 for the host.

But Jerusalem and especially Adi Gordon seemed overmotivated for the game, the extra adrenaline leading to 11 first-half turnovers. Combined with some poor shot selection, the throw-aways let Maccabi get back into the game easily, with center Randy White running the offense from the low post. A late flurry by Nadav Henefeld drew Sherf's club to 43-41, on a basket by Constantin Popa, and suddenly what appeared to be on the verge

of becoming a rout for Jerusalem had become a close game.

Jerusalem's offense never answered the bell for the second half until it was too late. Gordon was completely shut down by Maccabi, and when found some space, was off his game anyway. He finished with just 13 points, all coming in the first half.

Meanwhile, Maccabi was dominating the boards, especially after Bingenheimer fouled out, the big man's fifth was whistled on him when he stupidly pushed Popa when the latter got in his way during a post-basket inbound play.

Jerusalem couldn't fill Bingenheimer's shoes underneath, and the resulting 12-3 run gave Maccabi a 61-54 advantage it didn't surrender the rest of the way.

Led by Popa and Doron Sheffer, Maccabi played textbook ball, drawing fouls and hitting from the line, especially Sheffer who was 8-8 from the charity stripe.

Jerusalem's vaunted outside game woke up near the end, but by

then it was too late for second place Hapoel to even say they tried harder.

Jerusalem needs a victory on the road against Maccabi Ra'anana next Monday night to secure second place. For Maccabi, the triumph without Johnson just proved once again what depth they have on the bench, and why it appears they will have little trouble handling Jerusalem in the post-season.

Randy White led Maccabi with 19 points, while Thompson had 22 for Jerusalem, but Bingenheimer had just six, not nearly enough from a big man being counted on to contribute in a crucial game.

### National Basketball League

Team	W	L	Pts.
Maccabi Tel Aviv	17	0	34
Hapoel Jerusalem	10	7	27
Hapoel Eilat	9	8	26
Maccabi Ra'anana	8	8	24
Hapoel Galil Elyon	8	8	24
Maccabi Rishon	8	8	24
Givat Shimon	7	10	24
Ma Ramat Gan	6	11	23
Hapoel Tel Aviv	6	11	23
Bnei Herzliya	6	10	22
Hapoel Holon	6	10	22

# National squads head for Luxembourg

By ORI LEWIS

Israel's soccer squads travel to Europe this morning as they ready for their meetings with Luxembourg in the World Cup and European Championship under-21 qualifiers next week.

Monday's crucial World Cup qualifier is a do-or-die battle for Israel, as they must win the encounter to have any chance of reaching the finals in France next year.

The side is confident of success against one of Europe's weakest sides, but they are still wary that a repeat of the debacle against Cyprus is possible.

Israel won the first encounter against Luxembourg 1-0 last December in Ramat Gan.

Owing to the encounters on the continent, there will be only one National League match this weekend, between Hapoel Taiba and Hapoel Kfar Sava, the match will take place in Umm el-Fahm tomorrow at 15:30.

There will be a full round of fixtures in the Second Division and in the lower leagues.

# Portugal squad rattled by player's attack on coach

LISBON (AP) - Portugal's preparations for its vital game at Northern Ireland tomorrow got off to a disastrous start with player Ricardo Sa Pinto's attack on national coach Artur Jorge.

The incident disrupted training and clearly unsettled the squad as it bunkered down to discuss tactics.

On Wednesday, Sporting of Lisbon striker Sa Pinto, apparently angry at being left out of the side for disciplinary reasons, punched and threw Jorge to the ground.

Jorge, whose face was bruised in the clash, played "down" the episode.

"I had a quick word with the players about it. We'll give it more attention later. At the moment, we are focusing on the important game in Belfast," he said.

# Efes takes big step towards Final Four

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Turkey's Efes Pilsen took a big step towards the Final Four of the men's European basketball club championship with a convincing 87-71 win over Villeurbanne of France last night.

Efes led from a few minutes into the game, finishing the first half with a 41-32 lead and maintained the advantage to the end.

In the second-half, there were spells when Villeurbanne looked as though they might come back at the hosts with hard-won two-point baskets coming from Jim Bilba and Brian Howard.

Efes' decisive reply came from Peter Naumoski with a series of seemingly effortless three-pointers to demoralise the visitors.

Ufuk Sarica played impressively for Efes, but like all other players on the court, was forced into the shadow of the brilliant Naumoski. Villeurbanne look dangerous enough to take the next leg in France, but Efes will be relying on another similar performance back in Istanbul if it goes to a deciding game.

# UEFA bans top referee for life

GENEVA (Reuters) - Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger, once recognized as one of soccer's top officials, was suspended for life by UEFA yesterday for attempted bribery.

UEFA said in a statement that Roethlisberger admitted attempted bribery during investigations into a European Champions' League match between Grasshopper Zurich and Auxerre on October 30.

"We can't say anything about this case because we could influence other cases," said UEFA spokesman Frits Alstrom. "It would only make things more complicated. We have other cases and sometimes they are combined."

The UEFA investigation found that Roethlisberger contacted Grasshopper manager Erich Vogel and visited his offices on October 18.

"Mr Roethlisberger asked whether Grasshopper-Club would be interested in the referee of the Grasshopper-Club-A.J. Auxerre match on 30th October 1996 not giving decisions against Grasshopper-Club," said UEFA, after the ruling by its Control and Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday.

"This would obviously involve financial compensation, and the sum of 100,000 Swiss Francs (\$68,600) was mentioned. Mr Roethlisberger said he was friendly with the referee (Vadim Zhuk of Belarus), and that it would be easy to arrange the matter." Roethlisberger's actions were reported to UEFA by Grasshopper who won the match 3-1.

"In the course of the investigations, Mr Roethlisberger admitted attempted bribery," UEFA said.

The statement added: "Through his action, Kurt Roethlisberger

has violated principles which are indispensable for sport, namely those of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanlike conduct.

"The matter is all the more regrettable as Kurt Roethlisberger is a well-known figure, who was a FIFA referee for a considerable number of years."

Roethlisberger has until midnight April 2 to lodge an appeal against the UEFA ruling.

"We cannot make any comment or give any information until after the appeal (date)," said Freddy Bickel, Grasshopper media officer. "We would like to make a comment but we've been told we can't." UEFA said investigations concerning Zhuk were continuing and that he would not officiate as a FIFA referee until the investigation was complete.

Roethlisberger, at one time considered among the world's top referees, officiated at the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, the 1988 Olympics and European championship matches.

Roethlisberger retired as a referee last year after a 27-year officiating career as controversial as it was accomplished.

He was sent home in disgrace from the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States after admitting he should have awarded Belgium a penalty during their 3-2 defeat by Germany in a second round match.

In 1995, Roethlisberger was handed a three-month suspension by FIFA for mis-using his position as a referee in a campaign to win a seat in the Swiss parliament.

He was photographed in his official uniform and had the logo of his political party super-imposed on his shirt beside FIFA's own emblem during an election campaign.

# Robbie Fowler fined for supporting fired dock workers

GENEVA (Reuters) - Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler was fined 2,000 Swiss Francs (\$1,400) by European governing body UEFA yesterday for his show of support for sacked dock workers during a European Cup Winners' Cup match.

Ironically, Fowler had received a pat on the back from the world governing body FIFA on Tuesday for a display of fair play during an English premier league match against Arsenal.

UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee made note of Fowler's sporting behavior in assessing the punishment beginning its press release saying: "It may seem strange and even unfair..."

After scoring his second goal in Liverpool's 3-0 Cup Winners' Cup win over Brann Bergen of Norway last week, Fowler lifted up his red Liverpool shirt to display a T-shirt

which read: "Support The 500 Sacked Dockers."

UEFA regulations prohibit players from displaying any political logos at matches.

The press release noted that while UEFA may sympathize with such support, it strictly rules that a soccer ground is not the right stage for political demonstrations.

Two days earlier, Fowler was praised for his sense of fair play when he argued against a penalty call after he appeared to be brought down in the penalty area by England goalkeeper David Seaman.

However, as referee Gerald Ashby signalled the penalty, Fowler protested that he had not been fouled.

"Your reaction in the penalty incident did you great honor. It is the kind of reaction which helps maintain the dignity of the game," said FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter.

# UEFA continuing probe into crowd trouble at Porto-Man. Utd. match

GENEVA (Reuters) - UEFA said yesterday it was still investigating the incident that left eight Manchester United fans injured after a clash with riot police following a European Cup quarter-final against Porto.

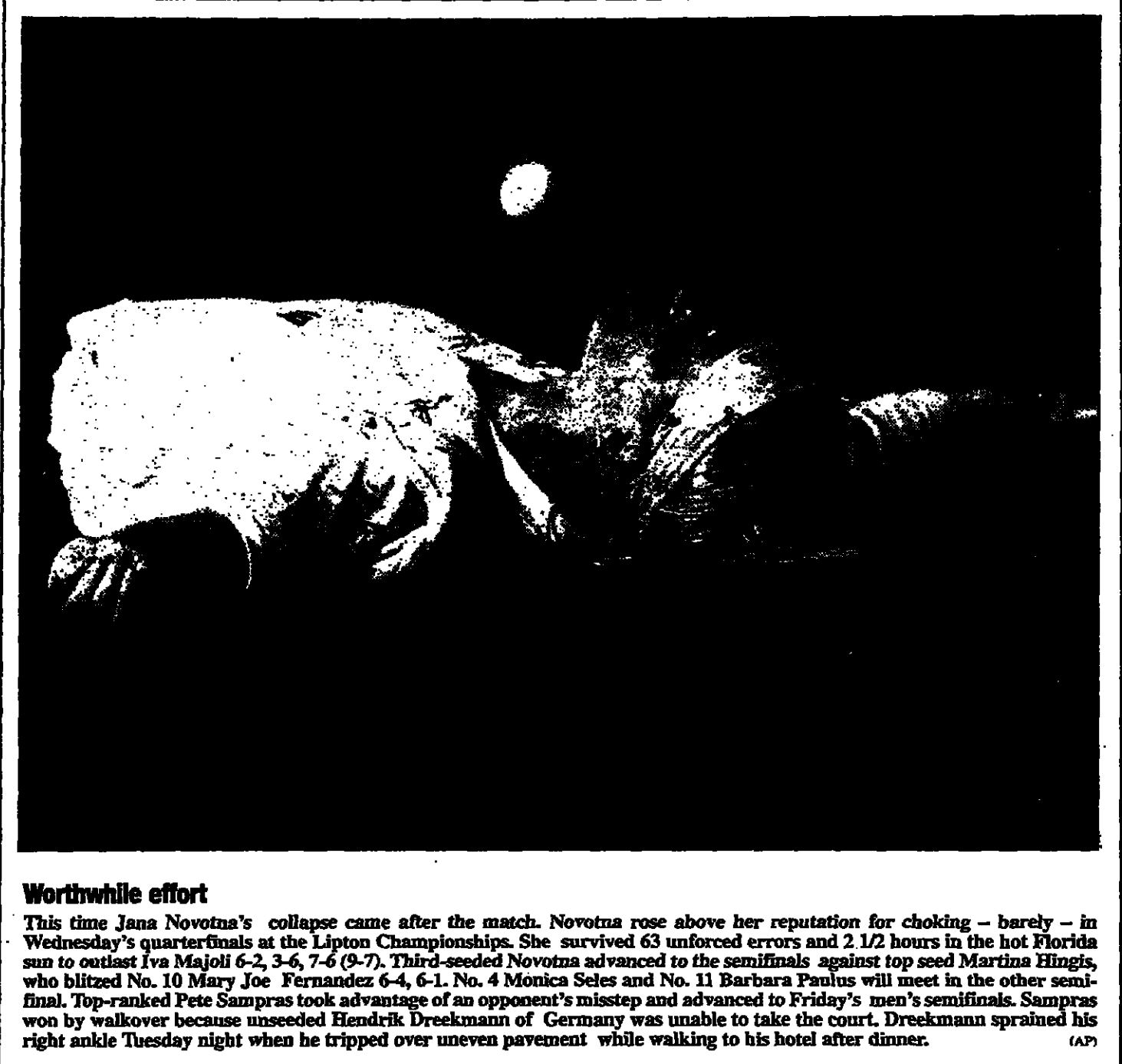
Opporto police fired plastic pellets and small rubber balls - both part of anti-riot equipment - to contain United supporters seeking to break out of the stadium at the end of the

match on March 19.

The injured, including one with head wounds, were taken to hospital but all were discharged.

The match ended 0-0 but Manchester United went through 4-0 on aggregate after trouncing Porto at Old Trafford in the first leg.

UEFA said in a press statement that further investigation was needed before any action could be taken.



Worthwhile effort

This time Jana Novotna's collapse came after the match. Novotna rose above her reputation for choking - barely - in Wednesday's quarterfinals at the Lipton Championships. She survived 63 unforced errors and 2 1/2 hours in the hot Florida sun to outlast Iva Majoli 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7). Third-seeded Novotna advanced to the semifinals against top seed Martina Hingis, who blitzed No. 10 Mary Joe Fernandez 6-4, 6-1. No. 4 Monica Seles and No. 11 Barbara Paulus will meet in the other semifinal. Top-ranked Pete Sampras took advantage of an opponent's misstep and advanced to Friday's men's semifinals. Sampras won by walkover because unseeded Hendrik Dreekmann of Germany was unable to take the court. Dreekmann sprained his right ankle Tuesday night when he tripped over uneven pavement while walking to his hotel after dinner.

# Sports delegations to meet Diaspora youngsters

By ARYEN DEAN COHEN

Delegations of Israel athletes participating in competition abroad will take time out to meet with local Jewish youth, according to a directive issued this week by Deputy Education, Culture and Sports Minister Moshe Peled.

Prior to their visits, the athletes will be briefed about the situation of the Jews living in the countries to which they will travel. "Getting to know the community and proper information efforts by the athletes will strengthen our ties with the Diaspora," Peled said.

# Windies struggle against India's Prasad and Ganesh

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (Reuters) - India pacemen Venkatesh Prasad and Dadda Ganesh had West Indies on the ropes at tea on the opening day of the third Test yesterday.

Prasad, with three wickets, and Ganesh, with two, reduced West Indies to 144 for five.

Their predicament could have been worse but for a battling unbeaten 53 by Shivnarine Chanderparat.

West Indies, who lost openers Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams in reaching 68 for two at lunch, were never able to come to terms with a bouncy pitch.

Prasad, who has taken three for 50 off 19 overs, captured the

# Fredericks runs 9.99 on track return

PIETESBURG, South Africa (Reuters) - Frankie Fredericks made a dynamic return to the track yesterday as he ran the second fastest 100 meters ever on African soil.

The Namibian, who took silver in both sprints at the Atlanta Olympics, posted 9.99 seconds in the first leg of the Engen Grand Prix Summer Series.

Fredericks' time was 0.02 seconds slower than Briton Linford Christie's African record set in Johannesburg in 1995.

Fredericks, who last raced in September, missed the entire indoor season due to a leg injury.

# Harvard vs. Yale flavor in annual Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race

LONDON (AP) - Yale snapped Harvard's 11-year winning streak last year in their traditional rowing showdown.

American Jordan Irving, a member of the winning Yale crew, will be in Oxford's boat tomorrow with another upset mission - stopping Cambridge's four-year winning string in rowing's most famous race.

"We finally broke Harvard's streak last year, so maybe that means something for Oxford, too," said Irving of Alexandria, Va.

The president of the Cambridge crew is a former Harvard man - Ethan Ayer - and he begs to differ. Ayer was in Cambridge's winning boat last year and he intends a repeat.

"If Jordan has one thing against him being in the Oxford boat, he has two things against him being from Yale," said Ayer of Greenwich, Conn.

"Yale is definitely not a favorite opponent of mine so I would be happy to take him on two counts." Called simply "The Boat Race," tomorrow's race over 4 1/4 miles (6.8 kilometers) on a curving stretch

on the Thames is rowing's finest event. It will take just over 17 minutes to finish and will be the centerpiece of the day for about 100,000 fans who will line the river bank or lean over bridge railings to get a look.

The tradition is purely British. But the field is international with six non-Britons in the boats this year.

Cambridge leads the series, which has been run almost every year since 1829, 73-68 (with one draw).

The crews this year - the two tallest on record averaging 1.95 meters between them - might also be the strongest with Oxford, under new Dutch coach Rene Mijnders, very slight favorites to stop Cambridge's streak at four.

Ayer, at 2.05 meters, set the record last year for the tallest rower ever in the race. This year, Cambridge is the slightly heavier crew and the heavies have won 93 of the previous 142 races.

"This crew is very comparable to my Dutch eight," Mijnders said. "The quality is very close, maybe there's a small difference in power and experience."

"We know that Oxford is fielding the best boat they have for a long time," said Canadian Olympian Brad Crombie who is rowing for Cambridge. "It could be their best boat ever. We're wise to that fact. From the first day of training we knew we'd need a great crew to win."

"It's hard to compare this to the Olympics," added Crombie, who is studying for a doctorate in 19th century German history.

"It's like comparing apples to oranges. Rowing is just one aspect of the Olympics. Here's it's the focus. There's a strong rowing tradition in England, they know much more about the sports and its followed more closely." In addition to Crombie and Ayer, the other non-Briton on Cambridge is Denmark's Damien Maltarp, Oxford - in addition to Irving - has two other non-Britons in the crew and they're both Olympians - Roberto Blanda of Italy and Luka Grubor of Croatia.

"The preparation is similar to the Olympics and the quality is similar, but it's just one race," Blanda said. "There's no semifinals... you just have to be perfect on the day." Blanda, who got his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in Seattle in linguistics and French, was lured to Oxford by its academic tradition and its rowing.

There have been off and on rumors that low-key recruiting is used to bolster each crew. Both universities deny it as do the rowers. But some rowers get preference, as is the case with Oxford's stroke this year Tim Foster.

A British Olympian, Foster won bronze in Atlanta last summer in fours. He said he was turned down by Oxford and Cambridge as an undergraduate - before he was a well-known oarsman. Now, as an Olympic rower, he was admitted by Oxford to do a one-year masters degree.

"I don't think there's anybody calling up trying to get in really good rowers, Foster said. "But it probably helped this time that people knew who I was."

Sports Editors: Joseph Holman and Ori Lewis



